SC rules 10-4-1 plunder law constitutional

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2001 ★★ 44 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 345 ₱15

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE SUPREME Court voted yesterday to uphold the country's plunder law—junking Joseph Estrada's petition for lack of merit and effectively ensuring that the deposed President spend Christmas in jail.

With a vote of 10 against the petition, four in favor, and one abstention, the high court removed all legal obstacles to the prosecution of Estrada, his son former San Juan mayor Jinggoy Estrada and his lawyer Edward Serapio for allegedly stealing more than P4 billion from the nation's coffers. Plunder is a non-bailable offense and is punishable by life imprisonment or death.

SC/ A15

VAL HANDUMON

"Guilty beyond reasonable doubt."

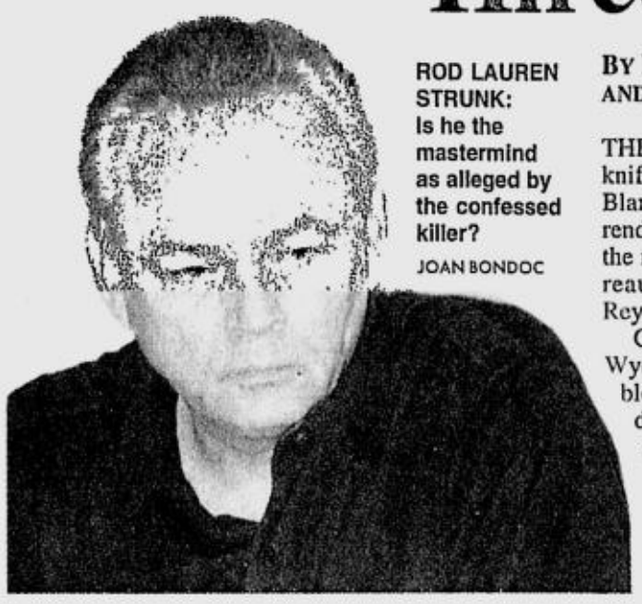
SC affirms Jalosjos conviction

BY M. L. UBAC AND C. AVENDAÑO

THE SUPREME Court has affirmed the sentence of double life terms

SC/ A4

'Hired killer' tags Nida's husband



ROD LAUREN STRUNK: Is he the mastermind as alleged by the confessed killer?

JOAN BONDOC

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND TJ BURGONIO

THE BLOOD found on a paring knife and his clothing that Nida Blanca's confessed killer had surrendered to authorities was that of the murdered actress, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco said yesterday.

Citing police forensic experts, Wycoco told the INQUIRER that the blood provided the strongest evidence against Philip Medel Jr., supposedly one of two "hired killers" suspected by the police and the NBI.

Wycoco added that investigators were hot on Medel's trail even before he gave himself up.

Medel, 54, turned himself in to Senior Insp. Edwin Fernandez of the Philippine National Police's Task Force Marsha early Sunday morning, claiming he had been "bothered by his conscience."

According to Director Nestorio Gualberto, task force head and chief of the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, Medel admitted during interrogation that he had been contracted by Blanca's American husband Rod Lauren Strunk through a certain Mike Martinez to torture the actress into producing a document related to her will *(mana)*.

But he was forced to stab Blanca when she refused to produce the document, Gualberto told a press conference yesterday. *(See chronology of events leading to murder page A4)*

Clad in a black sweatshirt, Medel was briefly presented to the media but was not allowed to take questions.

Annabelle Rama, a close friend and neighbor of Blanca's in White Plains, Quezon City, expressed the hope that Medel was not simply a fall guy.

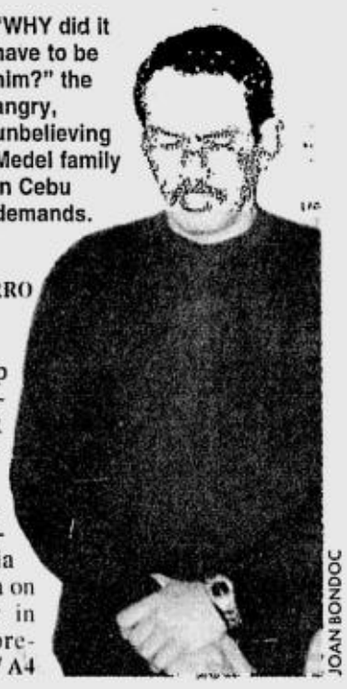
"After the reward money offered to anyone who can give information about Nida's killer/s, anybody can just come out and say he did it," Rama told the INQUIRER. "There are a lot of fake people who will surely come out."

Medel's confession came as "a total surprise to the family," said an associate of Blanca's only child, Katherine Jones Torres.

HIRED/ A4

Who is this guy?

"WHY did it have to be him?" the angry, unbelieving Medel family in Cebu demands.



JOAN BONDOC

BY KATHY I. NAVARRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Philip Medel Jr.'s middle-class family has not been involved in a controversy—until now.

It shocked his family, particularly his 80-year-old mother Maria Guadalupe, to see him on television yesterday in handcuffs, being pre-

WHO/ A4

Nur revolts; 51 killed

ARMM gov's power play aimed at stopping Nov. 26 polls

BY PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

JOLO, Sulu—Nur Misuari, ousted leader of the Moro National Liberation Front and disgruntled governor of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao, is back on the warpath.

Breaking a 1996 peace deal with the government in a bid to stop the upcoming ARMM elections, about 400 armed men belonging to Misuari's MNLF faction attacked three military camps and a police station on this island shortly before dawn yesterday.

At least 51 people—48 rebels and three soldiers—were killed in the fierce clashes that also left 50 others wounded. Hundreds of civilians fled their homes to avoid getting caught in the crossfire.

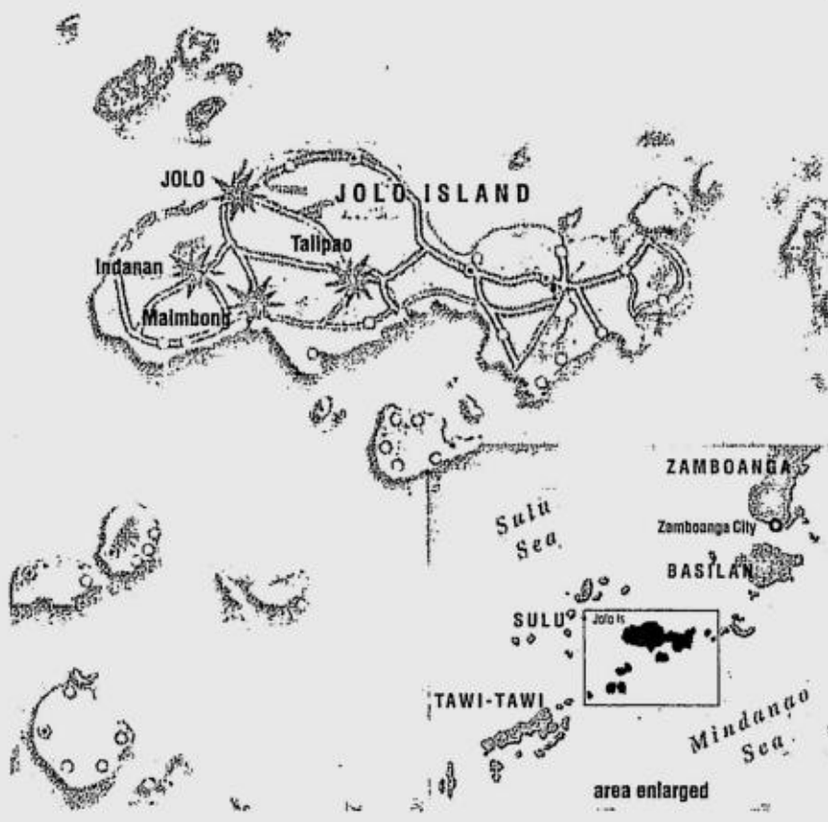
President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is on a week-long visit to the United States, ordered the military to employ the "full force" of its resources against the rebels.

Air Forces planes and attack helicopters streaked across Jolo's skies the whole day, pounding MNLF positions amid a heavy exchange of mortar fire on the ground. Fighting subsided by nightfall.

Misuari's aide Abdurahman Jamasali said the MNLF rebels staged the attacks to prevent the holding of the ARMM polls on Nov. 26.

In Manila, however, Commission on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo said next week's balloting would push through as scheduled. He said the military had assured him that the situa-

NUR/ A14



INQUIRER ESAMSID

NUR MISUARI, outgoing ARMM governor, who has denounced the scheduled Nov. 26 election, has declared war on the government and now leads an armed uprising with his loyal MNLF members in Jolo that began at dawn Monday.

VAL HANDUMON

100,000 MRT, LRT commuters get free treat

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

HARRIED commuters of the Metro Rail Transit and Light Rail Transit enjoyed a rush-hour treat yesterday morning reading the maiden edition of INQUIRER Libre.

It did not take more than an hour for most of the 100,000 copies to disappear from the news racks set up inside the stations.

"We believe news and information is not a privilege. It is a right," said Dennis Valdes, president of INQUIRER Publications Inc., in a simple launching ceremony held at the LRT Baclaran station early yesterday morning.

LRT Administrator Teodoro Cruz welcomed the decision to distribute INQUIRER Libre. "By sharing public information for free, you help increase the people's awareness of worthy news events," he said.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez later gave out the ceremonial first copy and a complimentary INQUIRER T-shirt to a male northbound passenger.

100,000/ A14

Afghans crowd theaters, video shops

KABUL—Afghans, long denied under Taliban rule the pleasure of watching movies, are now cramming into makeshift theaters and video stores.

Outside a small shop that was converted into a mini-theater, Afghan men stood, shouting out the names of their favorite actors and characters.

"Arnold!" "Rambo!" "Van Damme!" "Jackie Chan!" they cried.

The men were waiting for

AFGHANS/ A14

RP, US crafting logistics pact–Guingona

BY NORMAN BORDADORA AND TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

IS IT a matter of semantics, or are the country's two highest officials reading from different scripts?

A day after President Macapagal-Arroyo denied any secret agreement that would allow the return of US troops to the Philippines on a permanent basis, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. yesterday confirmed that negotiations over a new military treaty were indeed ongoing.

Philippine and American troops also resumed war games yesterday, after at least 84 special troops of the US Army and Air Force based in Okinawa, Japan, arrived in the former Clark Air Base for a month-long war exercise.

Guingona, who is also the foreign secretary, said the Philippines and the United States were drafting a proposed Mutual Logistics Support Agreement, and that his department had already submitted the proper comments to make the agreement "constitutional, legal and in accordance with existing treaties."

"The Department of Foreign Affairs is part of a work group, a task force, whose function is to advise President Macapagal on the matter and the ultimate goal will be for the national interest," he said.

Last week, unnamed DFA officials disclosed that an MLSA currently under negotiation provided for the virtual restoration of the former US bases, allowing US personnel unlimited access to their former military bases in exchange for refurbished military equipment

But in New York over the weekend, Ms Macapagal told Filipino journalists covering her working visit to the United States that any security arrangements agreed on would not include the stationing of US troops in the Philippines. She added, "If I were to sign a secret agreement, would that be enforceable?"

RP/ A14

GMA visit: When Washington Basilica looked like Quiapo

BY JENNIE L. ILUSTRE
PDI Washington correspondent

WASHINGTON—It looked like Quiapo—the largest Catholic church in the United States and the eighth largest in the world.

Last Sunday, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the whole Filipino-American community opened their hearts to President Macapagal-Arroyo with a load of problems on her shoulders.

"This is really out of the ordinary. Not very many heads of state or heads of governments come here, and certainly not to hear Mass. It's a great indication of the solidarity of the Filipino people to the national tragedy suffered by Americans as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks," Peter Sonsky, the Basilica's communications director told the INQUIRER.

He said there were about 1,350 Filipino-Americans present. The church seats 2,250, but can accommodate 6,000 with people standing on the sides.

Filipino-Americans came from this capital city, the nearby states of Virginia and Maryland. Some drove three hours from Virginia Beach to see the President and attend the Mass.

The 2000 census reports there are 76,435 Fil-Ams in the Tri-State area: 47,609 in Virginia, 26,608 in Maryland, and 7,609 in Virginia. The actual total could be 88,000, including the undercounted US citizens and the undocumented.

A mother, Maggie Paglinawan,

GMA/ A14

WARM welcome on a sunny autumn day in Washington for President Macapagal.

REUTERS

Second FRONT PAGE

Vandolph hurt in accident

BAGUIO CITY—Former child actor Vandolph Quizon, his girl companion and their driver were seriously hurt at 4:30 p.m. Monday when their Ford F-150 pickup smashed into a truck in Binalonan town in Pangasinan, sketchy reports said.

Reports said Vandolph, son of comedy king Dolphy and actress Alma Moreno, was rushed in serious condition to the Sacred Heart Hospital in Urdaneta City.

His companion and their driver were also taken to the same hospital where they are all under observation.

Reports said Vandolph's pickup tried to overtake another vehicle just as it passed the Bugayong Bridge in Binalonan when it collided with a sand and gravel truck.

Vandolph's pickup, which was a total wreck, came from Manila and was going to this city.

The young actor's family said he and his companions would be airlifted to Manila today. *Gobleth Moulic and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Opposition mounts Senate coup, fails

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

IT was a Senate coup that was "doomed from the start."

Declaring that the country had become "leaderless" because Congress' top officials have joined President Macapagal-Arroyo in her US trip, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta yesterday tried to have all "current positions of leadership" in the Senate declared vacant.

But only nine opposition senators supported Oreta's motion, which needed 13 votes to pass.

"(The Senate coup) was doomed from the start. They simply don't have the numbers," said administration Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Arroyo dismissed the minority move as mere "sour-graping because they were not included in the trip."

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Jose de Venecia are part of the President's official delegation on her nine-day US trip.

But so is Senate Minority Leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel as Arroyo pointed out in his interpellation of Oreta.

"Let it not be said that the Senate minority leader did not join the trip," said Arroyo who asked Oreta if her move had the blessings of Pimentel.

Coup backers

Those who supported Oreta's motion were opposition Senators Vicente Sotto, Edgardo Angara, Luisa Ejercito, Rodolfo Biazon, Robert Jaworski, Sergio Osmeña, Panfilo Lacson, John Osmeña and Gregorio Honasan.

From accusations of a "leaderless Senate," the Senate opposition turned its guns on "a leaderless military."

"The military is fighting a nasty war and is leaderless... the top people in the defense and military establishment are thousands of miles away," declared Angara.

Angara demanded that National Security Adviser Roilo Golez and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes return from the US, where they are with the presidential delegation, to personally oversee the war in Mindanao.

He cited the unchecked outbreak of violence in Mindanao and other regions.

Press reports said that 43 soldiers have been killed in clashes with communist guerrillas in Compostela Valley and Davao Oriental in the past few days.

Angara also cited reports indicating that Nur Misuari's faction of the Moro National Liberation Front had linked up with the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang to sow terror in Mindanao.

The war on terrorism "is right in the home front, right in our own backyard," said Angara.

In a privileged speech, Oreta asked the absent Ms Macapagal why, with the country's worsening security and economic problems, she had to go on an extended trip to and "drag the leaders of Congress with her."

She castigated Ms Macapagal for going on a nine-day trip to the US "on the heels of earlier travels to China, Hong Kong, Brunei and Indonesia."

No road map

With most Cabinet members and top congressional leaders in the US, "our country has seemingly become a vessel in the middle of a turbulent ocean with no steady hand to direct our ship of state," she lamented.

"My feeling is that we are now a nation with no road map to guide our course," she said.

In asking to declare all the positions in the Senate vacant, Oreta said this "would help serve as a wake-up call to Palace officials and pro-administration legislators alike to get real and act more decisively on problems now running wild and seeming beyond government control."

Arroyo said Oreta wanted to punish the Senate President for the acts of the President.

He said her accusations against Ms Macapagal's alleged incompetence in governance "has no relation to the acts of the Senate President."

Meanwhile, Sen. Ralph Recto said the recent attacks by the communist New People's Army should not deter the government from forging a Christmas truce with the communist rebels this year.

"This should not be seen as a sign of weakness on the part of the government but as proof of its commitment to peace," he said.

Recto said many sectors have urged the military to exact revenge on the rebels for their recent attacks. But he said justice can be served another day.

"War can wait. This Christmas let us still the guns in the spirit of the season," he said. *With a report from Cynthia Balana*

Oops! Wrong virus

BY B. RIVERA

OOPS, they did it again.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday said the flu that hit Metro Manila schools last month was influenza type B, not type A as the Department of Health earlier declared.

In a press briefing yesterday, Dayrit said the results of the tests done on the throat swabs taken from afflicted students showed that the virus was not Influenza AH1N1.

Dayrit added that a closer look revealed the reemergence of influenza type B, which was not prevalent until last month.

"It's not a new virus but it has not surfaced again until the flu that hit schools here," Dayrit said, adding "the immune system was not as prime to deal with the organism" because it has not been around.

The health chief said the identification of the influenza type B may have implication on the vaccine being used by schools hit by the flu on the first week of October.

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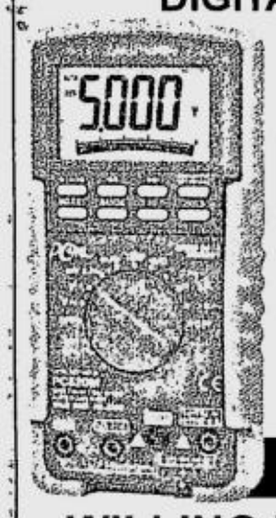

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Jacobi lawyer asks: Why no probe on Irene, Greggy?

BY DONNA S. CUETO

THE LAWYER for Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi has decried the Presidential Commission on Good Government's failure to investigate Irene and Greggy Araneta for their alleged attempt to launder Swiss funds in Germany early this year.

The lawyer, David Chaikin, an anti-money laundering expert, said he was puzzled by the PCGG's failure to question the Araneta couple even after Irene had admitted owning the Union Bank of Switzerland funds that were to be transferred to Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf, Germany.

The PCGG also failed to subpoena the Aranetas' lawyer, Eleazar Reyes, who was involved in the attempt to launder the funds, Chaikin said.

This, he said, after both the Philippine and German governments confirmed that it was the Araneta couple who had gone to Deutsche Bank to open an account into which the Swiss funds were to be deposited.

German officials had also provided the Philippine government with bank documents purportedly signed by Irene, as well as photocopies of the passports of both Aranetas and the people who were with them during the alleged money laundering attempt, he said.

"Given the above, I can't understand why the PCGG intends to do nothing further concerning Irene Araneta's attempt at money laundering," Chaikin said in his Nov. 17 letter to Yorac.

"This despite the statement made by the PCGG suggesting that it could file a new case against the Marcoses if investigation shows they are still engaged in money laundering," he said.

Chaikin told Yorac further: "I expected that the new PCGG under your leadership would act differently and would examine the facts. This is what you promised me when I had my meeting with you."

Chaikin was referring to his meeting with Yorac in August, which the latter reportedly asked him to keep confidential.

Chaikin said he was surprised when PCGG commissioner for legal affairs Ruben Carranza leaked details of the meeting to the media, and even gave "misleading" and "factually incorrect statements" to the press about it.

Carranza had claimed Chaikin had visited the PCGG to seek a renewal of Jacobi's contract with the agency.

Chaikin denied the contract came up during the meeting with Yorac.

The lawyer, who served in the Australian government as a senior economic fraud officer and assistant secretary and international branch head of the Australian attorney general's department, said he hopes the PCGG would not be a "toothless tiger (like it) was under the Estrada administration."

He said, "The decision of (former solicitor general) Francisco Chavez to resign as special counsel of the Department of Justice shows there is something seriously wrong with the Philippine government's institutions which are supposed to be devoted to recovering the hidden Marcos monies."

With Christine O. Avendaño

Body not that of Pierantoni

PAGADIAN CITY—The captors of Italian missionary Giuseppe Pierantoni yesterday confirmed that the body found in Pisaan Island in Zamboanga del Sur on Sunday was neither that of the priest nor of the missing Canadian national in Davao del Sur.

This developed as the National Bureau of Investigation asked the Diocese of Pagadian to submit medical and dental records of Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni.

"We will compare his medical and dental records to the body," lawyer Glen Peralta of the NBI said.

Faizal Marohombsar, leader of the Pentagon gang tagged by the military as the kidnapper of Fr. Pierantoni, and Norhan Amil alias Commander Ramsey yesterday said body was not that of Pierantoni or of Pierre Belanger, the Canadian who was reported missing in Hagonoy, Davao del Sur.

Marohombsar, in an interview thru mobile phone at his base in Central Mindanao, said the body "is not of Fr. Beppe or of the missing Canadian."

Still, he reiterated that he had nothing to do with the two abductions.

Asked how he knew it was not Pierantoni or Belanger, Marohombsar said "we have access to them," referring to the kidnappers.

Amil, believed to be behind the Oct. 17 abduction of Pierantoni, told an emissary that his men saw the body floating in Illana bay last week.

Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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'Hired killer' tags Nida's husband

(From page A1)

The PNP yesterday assigned two bodyguards to Torres, who came home on Nov. 11 from her base in Los Angeles to attend the Nov. 14 funeral of her mother.

Strunk was still closeted in his room at the family residence as of press time. But the Bureau of Immigration has put his name on the watch list.

Medel supposedly said he could no longer bear the thought that he killed Blanca and that he was not paid the P50,000 that Strunk allegedly promised him in exchange for the deed.

He is said to have surrendered to authorities the clothes that he allegedly wore at the time and the paring knife that he supposedly used.

"The knife was about three to four inches long," Wycoco said, adding that its width also matched the width of the stab wounds in Blanca's body.

10-page statement

Wycoco said Medel executed a 10-page sworn statement "in front of his lawyer."

Besides Strunk, Medel also implicated two women in the crime.

Wycoco said that the authorities already had sketches of the women, and that Candelaria Tantoco, a friend of Blanca's who had earlier been questioned as a witness, did not bear a resemblance to any of them.

He said the authorities' "initial findings" also showed that Tantoco was not involved.

Gualberto quoted Medel as claiming that Strunk was present at the killing and "even kicked Nida."

"When she refused to produce the document, they finished Nida Blanca off," Gualberto said, adding that the plot was hatched as early as the first week of October.

According to Medel, the killing took place between 1:30 and 2:30 a.m. of Nov. 7 inside Blanca's own car while it was parked at the sixth floor of the Atlanta Center on Annapolis Street in San Juan.

Blanca's corpse was discovered later at 8 a.m. in her car.

It was Strunk himself who allegedly ordered Medel to "hit and stab" Blanca when she started to fight off Medel at the backseat of the car, Gualberto said.

Strunk supposedly picked up Medel at the order of Santolan and Edsa on the afternoon of Nov. 6 and treated him to dinner at a restaurant along Edsa before taking him to the Atlanta Center in the evening.

While at the sixth-floor car park, it was allegedly Strunk who opened Blanca's car and let Medel in.

Medel waited inside the car from 10 p.m. until 1:30 a.m., when Blanca arrived followed by Strunk and two "lesbian-looking" women.

Medel said he was initially told that the target was "a Chinese businesswoman" facing charges of estafa. He only learned later that it was Blanca whom he had stabbed to death when this was reported to the media, Gualberto said.

"By my decision to be now sanctioned by the rule of law of man and later to the rule of eternal life, I'm now turning myself in as a voluntary witness to the evil design of Mr. Strunk and his evil cohorts," Medel said in his affidavit. "I hope mankind will understand the sin I have blindly committed."

"Even before he surrendered, we already had (Medel) under surveillance," Wycoco said, adding that state prosecutors were now determining whether the confessed killer could turn state witness.

Wycoco declined to give details on the other supposed hired killer.

Inquest

Medel was brought yesterday morning for inquest before the Department of Justice on murder charges.

Both Justice Secretary Harnando Perez and Interior Secretary Jose Lina said Strunk would be summoned to a preliminary investigation before the DOJ. But they quickly added that the DOJ would decide whether to file charges against him before the lower court based on the evidence presented.

Once the case is filed, it will be up to the courts to issue the warrant for Strunk's arrest, they said.

Watch list

Strunk was included in the immigration watch list early yesterday on the request of PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza and Sen. Vicente Sotto, Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said.

She said in a phone interview that she had issued a "double alert" order to airports.

"We have to tighten security so the suspect will not escape," Domingo said. "We cannot issue a hold-departure order because we are not authorized to do that. Only the President, Vice President and the Senate can do that."

According to Domingo, anyone on the watch list cannot leave the country until after five days from his/her first attempt to leave through any point of exit.

She said the bureau had not monitored any previous attempt by Strunk to leave the country, or even Metro Manila.

But Annabelle Rama said she could not believe that Strunk could be involved in the actress' murder.

"I'm not really close to Rod and I don't get to talk to him. It was only Nida whom I got to talk with regularly. We have vacation houses in Baguio that are right beside each other," Rama said, adding:

"I've seen how Nida really loved Rod and how she took care of him for the past 22 years."

Caridad Sanchez, another friend of Blanca's who also lives in White Plains, was initially shocked at the news report linking Strunk to his wife's murder.

But Sanchez refused to comment on the latest development, saying: "Let's just wait for the result of the investigation."

When Torres faced the media in a press conference last Nov. 12, she was asked about her stepfather's possible involvement in her mother's killing.

"None of this makes me happy," she said then. "I will just let the authorities do what they have to do."

But despite Medel's surrender, police would not say that the case was now considered closed.

"This is just the start of a long investigation," Gualberto said. He added that they would still hunt down the two women supposedly with Strunk at the time of the killing, and the two drivers who allegedly took turns driving Strunk and Medel around Greenhills and to the Atlanta Center on Nov. 6.

Blackout

Sen. Panfilo Lacson urged the PNP to impose a news blackout on the case in order to get all the suspects and prevent them from leaving the country.

In a talk with reporters, Lacson expressed displeasure over the way the investigation was being handled by the police.

"They should stop telegraphing their evidence and next moves to the public while the investigation is not yet finished," said Lacson, a former chief of the PNP.

He said that from the point of view of a law enforcer trained in investigative work, a premature disclosure of evidence gathered and next moves could jeopardize the entire process.

Lacson also said the people should not rush to judgment because a confession was credible only if supported by corroborating evidence. He added that there was a need to look into the motive of the one confessing.

Sotto said that as early as Friday he already knew from police of Strunk's alleged involvement.

Quoting the investigating team, Sotto said four or five people might have been involved in the killing.

He also said many actors and actresses were helping in the investigation. *With reports from Leah Salterio, Blanche S. Rivera and Cynthia D. Balana*

MEDEL'S STORY

THIS is the chronology of the events before and after Nida Blanca's murder, as narrated by Senior Insp. Jesus Versoza, quoting from the handwritten affidavit of Philip Medel Jr.:

Nov. 6

- **5:30 p.m.** Rod Lauren Strunk picks up Medel at the corner of Santolan Street and Edsa in a car driven by another person.

The group drives around Greenhills and Robinson's Galleria for some time "as if looking for someone" before stopping for dinner at a restaurant on Edsa.

The driver leaves Strunk and Medel at the restaurant. Later, another drives picks up the pair and drives them around Greenhills.

- **10 p.m.** They reach Atlanta Center on Annapolis Street and park at the sixth-floor car park.
- **Around 10:30 p.m.** Strunk approaches Blanca's car, opens a door and lets Medel in. Shortly afterwards, Strunk leaves the parking lot.

From this time until 1 a.m., Medel relaxes inside Blanca's car by smoking and sending text messages on his mobile phone.

Nov. 7

- **1:30 a.m.** A car arrives at the car park. A woman, which later turned out to be Blanca, gets off and hurriedly walks toward her car, followed by two women and Strunk.

From inside the car, Medel hears a heated argument between Blanca and her companions.

Blanca is pushed inside the car and on the backseat. She grapples with Medel. At this point, Strunk tells Medel "to hit and stab" her.

After the stabbing, Medel walks to the other car. Strunk and his women companions stay for some time inside Blanca's car, apparently looking for some documents.

Then the group leaves. Medel is dropped off at Virra Mall in Greenhills and is told by Strunk to contact Mike Martinez, the man who allegedly introduced the two men. *TJ Burgonio*

Who is this guy?

(From page A1)

sented by top police and justice officials as a key suspect in the murder of actress Nida Blanca.

Regina Medel, wife of his elder brother Virgilio, said she believed that Medel was just paid to admit the crime, and expressed anger at how this could affect the family's reputation.

"Let him come here and I will really slap him. I feel like I want to hit him with a two-by-two wooden pole," she told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Regina, 58, said the teenaged Medel never gave her problems during the years that he stayed with her and Virgilio in Sambag I, a densely populated barangay in Cebu City.

"We cannot believe it," she said in Cebuano. "With the hundreds of thousands of people in Metro Manila, why did it have to be him?"

Medel's other relatives were equally unbelieving, and described him as a "good person" with no criminal record. But some people here recalled a murky life as a "police character" and a hired gun.

"I heard from his neighbors that he is a police character with many illegal activities ranging from drugs to being a hired killer," Ramoncito Arquiza, barangay captain of Sambag I, said in Cebuano. "He was also a military asset. He is reportedly living with a call girl. I don't know if he's separated from his wife."

Dark past

In Manila, officials of the Philippine National Police also spoke of Medel's dark past as a mercenary in Angola and a member of "Police Kalawakan," a syndicate composed of underworld elements with connections to the PNP.

Director Nestorio Gualberto, head of Task Force Marsha and chief of the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said Medel served as a private security guard in a mining camp in Angola between 1988 and 1989.

"He admitted that he once worked as a mercenary in Angola," added Senior Supt. Jesus Versoza, chief investigator of the task force and CIDG director for administration.

It was when he returned to the country after his stint in Angola that Medel came to join Police Kalawakan, Versoza said.

Versoza also said Medel had been a gun for hire and was facing a string of estafa cases.

"He's associated with some personalities whose identities we will reveal later on," Versoza said, citing information that turned up in a background check.

Police also found a number of ID cards during a search Sunday night of Medel's rented apartment on Kamias Road in Quezon City

One ID card shows Medel as a security consultant of Jude Estrada, youngest son of ousted President Joseph Estrada by now Sen. Luisa Ejercito. But police have yet to confirm this.

Black belt

A family member who asked not to be named said she could not believe that Medel killed Blanca.

"Philip is a big guy," she said. "He stands 6 feet and 2 inches tall and is a black belt in karate. If he was the one who did it, Nida's stab wounds should have been bigger."

Family members stressed that their reluctance to answer questions from the media did not mean that they were protecting Medel. "It's just that we really don't know anything about it," one of them said, adding that some reporters here in Cebu City were accusing them of covering up for him.

Vic, Medel's younger brother, agreed to a phone interview but said only that all he knew was what he saw on television.

"What else can we say when my brother has already confessed that he is one of the suspects?" Vic said.

He said he had not seen Medel in years, and that he spent most of his teenaged years in a seminary.

Medel's parents hail from Carcar town, 40.3 kilometers south of Cebu City.

Of the brood of eight, Medel, the father's namesake, is the fourth. Vic is the sixth. Virgilio, now retired from the Constabulary, is the eldest.

Two of Medel's sisters are married and living in the United States. Another sister, who lives in Zamboanga City, is married to an employee of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Another sister works as a cook in Kuwait. Their brother Ramon, now deceased, was a policeman.

Vic, a well-known agriculturist, was consultant for agriculture of the Cebu City government during the administration of Mayor Alvin Garcia.

Estranged wife

Medel is married to a woman named Arvy, who hails from Cebu's southern town of Asturias.

After their wedding they left for Manila and decided to settle down there.

Regina said the latest that she had heard of Medel's family was that Arvy had returned to Asturias, leaving Medel in Manila with three of their six children.

"Why don't you ask the wife?" she told the INQUIRER. "I heard she is now in Asturias, with their three kids. We never heard from Philip. He used to visit us, until last year."

Regina said she had contacted Medel's three children in Metro Manila. She said they, too, were in shock and could not believe that their father was involved in Blanca's murder.

As of yesterday afternoon, the children were still planning to go to Camp Crame, where their father is being held, Regina said. *With reports from Debra Jane Magallon and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; TJ Burgonio in Manila*

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SC affirms Jalosjos conviction

(From page A1)

imposed by the lower court on Zamboanga Del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos for violation of the country's Heinous Crime Law when he raped an 11-year-old girl in 1996.

The high court found Jalosjos "guilty beyond reasonable doubt" of two counts of statutory rape and six counts of acts of lasciviousness.

At the House of Representatives, congressmen said they can now initiate actions to expel Jalosjos following the Supreme Court's affirmation of his conviction.

Should this happen, it will be first time that the House would expel a member. When he was sentenced in 1997,it was also the first time that a sitting congressman was meted out a penalty of two life terms.

Since his cases were still on appeal before the high tribunal early this year, Jalosjos was qualified to run in the congressional polls last May. He won, and is now serving his third and last term from his cell at the National Bilibid Prisons.

In a 46-page decision written by Associate Justice Consuelo Ynarez-Santiago on Nov. 16, the full court affirmed the judgment of conviction for each count of rape handed down by Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 62 Judge Roberto Diokno.

Crucial test

The Jalosjos case was considered a crucial test of the country's justice system, which had often been seen as lopsided in favor of the rich and powerful.

Diokno's decision elicited cheers nationwide. In the courtroom, the defenders of the accuser of the congressmen—lawyers Katrina Legarda, Paulita Villarante and Ma. Lourdes Cruz shed tears of joy. The identity of the accused was kept secret.

In upholding Diokno's judgment, the high court said the crime of rape was an assault on human dignity. "No legal system worthy of the name can afford to ignore the traumatic consequences for the unfortunate victim and grievous injury to the peace and good order of the community.

"Rape is particularly odious, one which figuratively scrapes the bottom of the barrel of moral depravity, when committed against a minor," the ruling said.

Also affirmed

Also, the appealed decision of Diokno in Criminal Cases Nos. 96-1987, 96-1988, 96-1989, 96-1990, 96-1992 and 96-1993, was also affirmed, with modifications.

For each of the six counts of acts of lasciviousness, the Supreme Court imposed a penalty of 12 years and one day as minimum to 15 years, six months and 20 days as maximum.

"Further, accused-appellant is ordered to pay the victim the additional amount of P50,000 as civil indemnity for each count of statutory rape and acts of lasciviousness. Finally, the award of moral damages for each count of acts of lasciviousness is increased to P50,000," the decision also stated.

Jalosjos has to pay a total of P700,000 in damages to his victim, according to the computation of the high court.

Sordid

The court decision took note of the fact that the victim was below 12 years old at the time of the rape.

"As narrated by her, the details of the rape are mesmerically sordid and repulsive. The victim was peddled for commercial sex by her own guardian whom she treated as a foster father. Because the complainant was a willing victim, the acts of rape were preceded by several acts of lasciviousness on distinctly separate occasions," the decision said.

The high court said even the accused, Jalosjos "is also a most unlikely" rapist. "He is a member of Congress. In spite of his having been charged and convicted by the trial court for statutory rape, his constituents liked him so much that they knowingly re-elected him to his congressional office, the duties of which he could not perform."

On Dec. 16, 1996, Jalosjos was charged with rape for sexually molesting the victim on June 18 and 20 of the same year at Room 1702 at the posh Ritz Tower in Makati.

The crime of acts of lasciviousness, which was filed in relation to Section 5, Article III of RA 7610, otherwise known as the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act, occurred on June 14, 15, 16, 20, 21 and 22, 1996.

Jalosjos went into hiding after the charges were filed against him in September 1996 with the Makati Prosecutors Office.

He attempted to flee the country but was arrested in Bagac, Bataan in January, 1997.

During the trial, the prosecution presented eight main witnesses and seven rebuttal witnesses as well as documentary evidence. The defense presented 26 witnesses.

In his defense, Jalosjos used a defense of alibi. He said he was in Dipolog City and Dapitan City during the months of June and July 1996.

He testified that he boarded a Philippine Airlines morning flight from Manila to Dipolog on June 16 and on June 28; attended a barangay fiesta in San Pedro, Dipolog on June 29; held consultation with political leaders at the Jalosjos-owned Dakak Beach Resort in Dipolog on June 30, among others.

Strongest proof

After the trial, Diokno convicted Jalosjos and imposed a double reclusion perpetua sentence. He was also ordered to pay P220,000 as moral damages.

Diokno told reporters then that the strongest evidence from the prosecution was the victim's positive identification of the congressman as the person with whom she spent the night with on several occasions from June to July in 1996.

However, the other six counts of acts of lasciviousness were dismissed "for failure of the prosecution to prove his guilt beyond reasonable doubt."

In his appeal, Jalosjos said the victim's testimony contained many inconsistencies, issued conflicting statements and failed to identify him, among others.

However, the court said a careful review of the pertinent transcript of stenographic notes reveals that the accused-appellant (Jalosjos) did not give any testimony as to where he was at the time these crimes were committed.

"Clearly, therefore, the trial court correctly disregarded his unsubstantiated defense of denial, which cannot prevail over his positive identification by (the victim) as culprit," the high court said.

The high court stressed that despite his morning flights to Dipolog, Jalosjos failed to "prove the physical impossibility of his presence at the Ritz Tower in the morning of June 16."

In the case at bar, Jalosjos' acts of "kissing the victim . . . all constitute lascivious acts intended to arouse or gratify his sexual desire."

Considering that there are no mitigating nor aggravating circumstance, the trial court correctly imposed on Jalosjos the maximum penalty of reclusion temporal, the SC said.

The court pointed out that Jalosjos had "carnal knowledge" of the victim.

"Moreover, the prosecution successfully proved that (the victim) was only 11 years of age at the time she was sexually abused. As such, the absence of proof of any struggle, or for that matter of consent or passive submission to the sexual advances of (Jalosjos), was of no moment. The fact that (Jalosjos) had sexual congress with 11-year-old (victim) is sufficient to hold him liable for statutory rape; and sentenced to suffer the penalty of reclusion perpetua," the high court added.

Jalosjos could have been sentenced to death since the victim was a minor at the time. However, the framers of RA 7659 (Heinous Crime law) said capital punishment should be imposed when the victim is under the custody of the police or military authorities—not congressmen—and below seven years old, an incest case, among others.

Expulsion

House Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzales said the high court decision now makes Jalosjos open for expulsion from Congress.

The House committee on ethics is expected to take this up today, according to its chair Isabela Rep. Antonio Abaya. He said he personally favors recommending Jalosjos' expulsion "considering recent developments."

Abaya said his committee can make the recommendation to expel Jalosjos moto propio since under House rules, his committee "can take cognizance of those relating to the conduct, duties, responsibilities, dignity and integrity of any member of the House."

"While the crime is not related to his duties in Congress, nonetheless, he's being convicted means he can't perform his duties in Congress," Gonzales told reporters.

He said that Jalosjos has been absent from the House since his conviction in 1997 or during the entire sessions of the 11th Congress.

Gonzales said the ethics committee should act and submit a recommendation to Congress.

"It will be voted on the floor and a vote of two-thirds of the members can expel (Jalosjos)," Gonzales said.

Gonzales noted that the last time Congress moved to expel a member was in the early '90s when then Rep. Nicanor de Guzman was convicted for illegal possession of firearms.

But De Guzman resigned before the House could expel him.

Gonzales also said a special elections would have to be held to replace Jalosjos in the event he is expelled from Congress.

He said a special elections can now be held because it has been two years since the last national elections.

Witness vs Mike A says he's ready to testify

BY CARLITO PABLO

BUSINESSMAN Pacifico Marcelo yesterday formally notified the Senate blue ribbon committee about his readiness to testify on the telecommunications franchise controversy.

"Contrary to reports that no witnesses in the telecom scam involving the First Gentleman (Jose Miguel 'Mike' Arroyo) could be found, I would like to place on record through this letter that the undersigned is willing to testify and appear before your committee preferably on Nov. 22 or as soon as may be scheduled by the committee," Marcelo said in a letter dated Nov. 19.

The letter was addressed Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, and copies were furnished Senate President Franklin Drilon and Minority Leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel.

"I am confident that my testimony together with the testimonies of other witnesses will finally shed light on the telecom scam which your committee is committed to find out," Marcelo said.

He did not say who the other witnesses were.

Marcelo also provided a Pasig City address where he can be reached.

The blue ribbon committee had said earlier that Marcelo could not be located at his listed residence and office addresses.

The committee will need Marcelo's sworn statement as the rules require, before he can be formally summoned and asked to appear at the hearings.

The controversy stemmed from President Macapagal-Arroyo's veto of two congressional franchises granted to Marcelo's Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. and APC Wireless Interface Network Inc. in April 2001.

Marcelo earlier claimed that people identified with Mike Arroyo had tried to extort money from him in exchange for the President's recall of her veto.

Records show that Ms Macapagal did not recall the veto, nor did Congress override the presidential action.

Marcelo also claimed that "people close to the First Couple" wanted his telecommunications businesses for themselves and that it was the reason why he was allegedly subjected to a "shakedown" or "extortion."

He claimed that PCCI alone, which got the congressional franchise to set up "wire and/or wireless" communications systems throughout the country stood to earn at least $1 billion in annual revenues.

Some suspect, however, that the President vetoed the congressional franchises because Malacañang believes that Marcelo was just fronting for Jaime Dichaves, a known associate of ousted President Joseph Estrada. Marcelo has denied he is fronting for Dichaves.

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Phil. Journal of Internal Medicine Report

CLINICAL TRIAL DONE BY DIABETES EXPERTS CONFIRMS AMPALAYA TEA CAN REDUCE BLOOD SUGAR LEVEL

The safety and anti-diabetic benefits of the herbal tea from fruits and seeds of the ampalaya were confirmed by the result of a clinical trial conducted by two highly respected diabetologists at the St. Luke's Medical Center. The Medical Report was published in the July-August issue of the Philippine Journal of Internal Medicine, the official publication of the prestigious Philippine College of Physicians.

The said medical trial report is co-authored by Dr. Ricardo E. Fernando, Chief of St. Luke's Medical Center's Section of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism: and Dr. Reynaldo F. Rosales an Endocrinology Fellow at the same hospital. Dr. Fernando is also Chair of the Institute for Studies of Diabetes Foundation. They conducted the clinical trial over a period of six months on 27 diabetic patients using ampalaya tea supplied by the Herbcare Enterprise the manufacturers of CHARANTIA Ampalaya Health Drink.

In their Medical Report, Drs Rosales and Fernando concluded: "Ampalaya fruit and seeds prepared as a tea is well tolerated and is a used adjunct in the treatment of type 2 diabetics. It has minor gastrointestinal side effects of increased bowel frequency which is beneficial to those diabetic patients who are constipated. It has no effect on weight and blood pressure."

This is the first and only local clinical trial conducted to verify the anti-diabetic benefits of the ampalaya in tea form. Its positive result bolsters similar findings of numerous clinical trials conducted worldwide which also identified the fruits and seeds of the ampalaya as its most potent and safe parts.

CHARANTIA Ampalaya Health Drink, the brand name of the product that was tested, is the only ampalaya tea that is made from 100% fruits and seeds that is now sold in local drugstores, and supermarkets. It is available in loose bits and in teabags.

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OPINION

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Blaming the media

EDITORIAL

THERE they go again, blaming the media for what is happening to the country.

Last Friday, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry called for an end to "sensationalism" in media which, they said, was one factor that was pushing to the sidelines the pressing problems facing the nation and driving investors and tourists away. At the annual Philippine Business Conference, the PCCI blamed the media for "sensationalizing stories involving public officials and for printing negative news items detrimental to the country's economic development, particularly on crime." It urged the media to draw up a set of ethical standards calling for sensitivity, sobriety and responsibility in news coverage, including an agreement not to show graphic pictures of crime victims in print or on television.

We're afraid the PCCI would rather shoot the messenger than listen to the message and act on it. The media only hold the mirror up to nature; they report and comment only on what is happening in the country, they do not invent these things. If there were no crime in the streets, the media would have nothing to report. If there were no corruption in government, the media would have no "sensational stories involving public officials."

In a perfect world, there would be no crime, no corruption, no scandals, no irregularities. All stories would be about "the true, the good and the beautiful," as one former first lady liked to say.

But we are living in an imperfect world, and we have to report what is happening at this time in this imperfect world. The media cannot be like ostriches burying their heads in the sand.

Nothing can be accomplished by ignoring and not reporting the so-called "negative stories" that big-business men hate to read. Can we solve the problem of corruption if we do not publish stories about irregularities in the government and the private sector? Can we solve the problem of crime and the breakdown of law and order if we do not report the activities of criminal syndicates and gangs? Will the stench of uncollected garbage vanish if the media do not print stories about the garbage problem?

What does the PCCI mean by "sensational" stories? What does it mean by "sensationalizing" stories? Most of the big crime and corruption stories are sensational in themselves. There is no need to "sensationalize" them. "Sensational" means arousing or tending to arouse a quick, intense interest, curiosity or emotional reaction. Isn't the story of the murder of actress Nida Blanca sensational in itself? Aren't stories about the involvement of government officials in multimillion-peso scams and scandals sensational in themselves? There was no need to "sensationalize" them.

As for ethical standards, the media do have them. For one, there's the Filipino Journalists' Code of Ethics to which the print media subscribe. The Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas has its own Code of Ethics. The INQUIRER, in addition, has its Manual of Editorial Policies which includes a section on Canons of Taste for Journalists. Anyone can complain to the Philippine Press Council, in the case of the print media, or to the KBP, in the case of the broadcast media, about violations of their rules. The INQUIRER has a readers' advocate who attends to complaints from readers and news subjects.

The media report these so-called "negative stories" because they would like the government and society to act on such things as crime, corruption and the declining economy. The media are also affected by the rising tide of criminality, by corruption in government and the private sector and by the general economic decline. They are reporting these things to bring them to the attention of those who should be concerned about these problems and should be acting on them.

Jose Rizal, in his dedication of the "Noli Me Tangere," said that the ancients of old exposed their afflicted on the steps of the temple so that each one who came to invoke the Divine would propose a cure for them. "To this end," Rizal said, "I will faithfully reproduce your condition without much ado. I will lift part of the shroud that conceals your illness, sacrificing to the truth everything, even my own self-respect, for, as your son, I also suffer in your defects and failings."

The media in contemporary times are doing just that: exposing the cancer of society so that remedies could be found for the illness. It would not do well for society to sweep its dirt under the rug, to hide its ills in the dark, instead of exposing them to the cleansing, purifying effects of the open air and sunlight.

An interview with former President Estrada (Part 2)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FOR a man in dire straits, former President Estrada has retained his sense of humor. He had many jokes to tell, and toward the end of the dinner, it became a joke-telling session. Too bad not at all of them can be repeated here.

But one joke, I think, should be told because it shows Erap's common sense.

President Ramos, Estrada and Macapagal were asked to solve one problem: How do you divide eight mangoes equally among 10 persons?

Ramos and Macapagal were stumped. "I won't give any to two of them," Ramos finally said.

"I will tell Mike to buy two more mangoes," said Gloria.

When his turn came, Erap had a quick solution: "I will turn the mangoes into mango juice."

Deprived of his mistresses, Erap still retains his sense of humor. Asked if they also visit him, he replied, laughing, "No, *bawal sila. Inayos yata ni Doktora, eh. Masayang-masaya siya, eh, solong-solong niya 'ko.* But I talk to the others by phone."

"They call you?"

"No, I call them."

"But you're not allowed the use of a phone."

"I find ways," he laughed.

Justifying his many mistresses, he said other presidents also had mistresses, "but they were not as honest as me." He cited Presidents Quezon, Roxas, Marcos, Ramos, even Franklin Delano Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy and Bill Clinton of the United States. "But they hid their mistresses from the public. I did not. I was honest."

Erap compared himself to Clinton. "Bill made Hillary first lady and senator," he said. "I also made Loi first lady and senator. And we were both impeached."

Those are not the only similarities between the two presidents. Clinton suspected sinister groups who manipulated his impeachment. Erap also accused groups who manipulated his impeachment and downfall. And he had names and why they worked for his ouster.

He named first the Lopezes and the Ayalas, the water franchise holders in Metro Manila. Two months after the peso-dollar exchange rate dropped from P28 to $1 to P42-$1, the Lopez-Ayala group went to him and asked for an immediate 80 percent increase in water rates. "They wanted it all in one increase," he said, "when the contract specified 25 years. Of course I rejected it."

Then there was former President Ramos. "He got sore when I created the Saguisag Committee to investigate the Centennial Expo scandal," Erap said.

Then there was Jaime Cardinal Sin, "who sent emissaries to me three times. First, he wanted me to scuttle the Visiting Forces Agreement; it will spread prostitution, according to him. I told them the soldiers will come here only occasionally and will not stay in one place. So I rejected the request.

"Then the Cardinal wanted me to stop population control. But we had the highest birth rate in Asia, 2.3 percent; 1,700 babies were being born every second. So how could I stop population control?

"Then Sin sent Cardinal Vidal and Bishop Quevedo to me to ask for a ceasefire with the MILF. For 'peace and tranquility' *daw*. But I showed them film footage of MILF atrocities. Angie Reyes and Orly Mercado were with me. I showed them a film of a soldier being ordered by the MILF to bow his head. Then a rebel chopped off his head. They weren't able to say anything."

But the most difficult for him was turning down Lucio Tan. "He was the biggest contributor to my campaign," Erap said. "He must have funded 70 percent of my campaign. When he won his tax evasion case in the RTC, he asked me not to elevate it to the Supreme Court.

"But I told them that I would go down in history as having helped a 'tax evader.' So I refused the request."

All these people, in Erap's belief, conspired to have him ousted. Officials in high places who get into trouble get paranoid and Erap is no exception. They blame others for their troubles. Erap thinks he is being persecuted.

What does the future hold for him?

Erap said he is confident he will be acquitted of the charges against him. But all accused persons are optimistic they will beat the law.

If acquitted, will he run again?

"No way," he interjected. "*Ayaw ko na ng pulitika.* I will just devote my time to my families" (with an emphasis on "families").

What he wants is to amend the Constitution to have a parliamentary system of government. "Let's have a constituent assembly, not a constitutional convention. *Mahal ang* convention. *Magkakaroon pa ng eleksiyon. At ang mga asawa at anak ng mga* congressmen and senators *ang tatakbo.*

"Sa constituent assembly, *tutulong ako.* But after the Constitution is amended retire *na ako.*"

Won't he run for a seat in parliament?

"No more. *Tama na 'yon. Ayoko na,*" he dismissed the suggestion like a tired old man who just wants some peace and quiet.

(More tomorrow.)

Gasoline into the fire

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

"GLOBAL terrorism poses an imminent threat to international peace and security. We, the chiefs of armies of the Asean, do hereby pledge to remain seized with the matter, and with other regions and countries to work in the global struggle against terrorism."

This was the statement of the military chiefs of the 10-member Asean at the end of their meeting here in Manila last week. Which is all very well and fine, except for one thing. Who will protect us from them?

In fact, they would contribute monumentally to ending terrorism in their respective countries not by being seized with the matter but by being seized with a heart attack. The ultimate terror is not hijacking planes and bombing installations, it is mounting a repressive government or defending it with fascist methods. The first is sporadic, the second is systematic. The first is temporary, the second is permanent. The first is intermittent, the second is pervasive.

The hijacking of a commercial plane and the bombing of public places, however genuinely terrifying, cannot compare with arresting the citizens of a country without warrant, with torturing or summarily executing them for protesting their lot in life, with blanketing a country in silence.

A cursory look at the history of the Asean will tell you that it's the military that has been most responsible for the region's experience with absolute terror. It's the military of Singapore and Malaysia that keeps those countries authoritarian to this day, depriving their citizens of basic freedoms. It's the military in Cambodia and Laos that has been responsible for their killing fields. It's the military in Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines that threatens to bring the country back to their authoritarian past, or at least that foments authoritarian practices inside their democratic shells. Indonesia especially, barely removed from Suharto's clutches.

If a group of well-known thieves had vowed to protect the property of the neighborhood from the depredations of suspicious strangers, it could not have been more farcical. Which is the truly terrifying aspect of today's anti-terrorism rhetoric. "Anti-terrorism" has become the magic wand that has made every evil in the world disappear like rabbits, even turning some of the worst of it in to a good fighting evil. That the Pakistani military should metamorphose from one of Amnesty International's most wanted into a cornerstone of the holy crusade to save civilization must already show the extent of the farce. It was only a question of time before the militaries of other countries caught on to the bright idea. Truly, the devil will never be loath to quote Scripture for his purposes.

The truly terrifying thing today is not terrorists hiding in their wormholes, waiting for the opportune time to strike. It is the institutions of societies with a record for wreaking bloodbaths being free to strike out once more under the banner of "anti-terrorism." And this time, with no world opinion to stand in their path.

I asked before and I ask again: After the terrorists are routed, who will be left to inherit the earth?

* * *

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo says she will ask the United States, Britain and Israel to help train local police to fight kidnapping. She says she will ask Hong Kong to cooperate with the Philippines to fight kidnapping, since kidnapping is an intra-regional affair. She says she will ask the Marines and the PNP Special Action Force to help fight kidnapping once they've finished off the Abu Sayyaf. And she says she will ask the citizens to help her fight kidnapping, even allowing them to bear arms for the purpose. So, are the days of kidnapping in this country numbered?

No.

The arming of the citizens by itself is a guarantee that crime generally, if not kidnapping in particular, will experience a sudden boost. As to the rest of it, we have a very elaborate example of "avoidance syndrome," of doing everything to avoid doing what needs to be done. Which is to turn the PNP inside out, if not abolish it altogether and replace it with a smaller, tighter and cleaner force.

At the very least, the PNP's incompetence calls for it. It's not merely the quantity of the kidnapping that suggests so, though one Chinese a day, which was the statistic last month, must already indicate epic lassitude. It's also the quality of the kidnapping, the last, which happened to the teenage daughter of a rich dermatologist, being done in broad daylight in a busy thoroughfare in Manila. For sheer brazenness, the only time this compares with is the last years of martial law, when robbers robbed banks with impunity, like outlaws in the Wild West.

But the problem isn't just the PNP's incompetence, as the following eye-popping statistics show. Out of the 23,645 inmates of the New Bilibid Prisons, 2,386, or 10 percent, were cops and soldiers. This is enough, as Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers rightly says, to form six battalions. And that is only the tip of the iceberg if you reckon that they are probably merely the sacrificial lambs, the foot soldiers and not their superiors who directed their criminal activities. The problem is not merely that the law enforcement agency is incompetent, it is that it is compromised.

That should have been obvious from the Senate hearings on Panfilo Lacson. Mary Rose Ong's testimony did not just indict Lacson—if at all—it indicted the whole PNP. It showed a fractious PNP fighting for spoils.

And there's the rub. For every time crime shoots up, government's first instinct is to give the police more powers: more budget, more arms, more (il)legal leeway to fight crime. That's like giving the Asean generals blanket authority to fight terrorism. Which is pouring gasoline into a fire. I said it before and I say it again, there is only one way to effectively solve crime in this country: Abolish the PNP.

Megawati and 'Miniwati'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

DURING President Macapagal's recent state visit to Jakarta, the Indonesians heard her stressing the brotherly ties that existed between her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, and Indonesia's late President Achmed Sukarno (both were involved in the formation of the bloc composed of Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia, which came to be known as the Maphilindo). Ms Macapagal said she and incumbent Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, Sukarno's daughter, are "sisters." Seeing the two women chief executives together, the petite Filipina beside the big motherly figure of their president, some Indonesians were moved to say that if they have a "Megawati," we have a "Miniwati." On the other hand, the business community in Indonesia found Ms Macapagal a welcome relief from her predecessors.

* * *

By the way, people have remarked that the pint-sized Ms Macapagal shouldn't have been placed right next to Singapore's towering Prime Minister Go Chok Tong during the customary linked-arms photo session of Apec leaders during their recent summit in Shanghai. Ms Macapagal had a tough time linking arms with Go, and looked so uncomfortable about it, so much so that her cape opened wide in the attempt. *Nasira tuloy ang* poise *at ang dating ng* dress *ni* Inno Sotto, was the common remark.

* * *

A report by the INQUIRER's Juan Sarmiento about the President's current events-filled US working visit said that she witnessed the signing of agreements with two US companies for the setting up of two call centers in the Philippines which will utilize Filipinos as call operators. The first agreement was between a local company called Immeguire and the US-based Tele Response Center, which will conduct a telemarketing campaign to raise funds for US-based non-profit and charity organizations. The Philippine company will run 24-hour, seven-day weekly contact center and customer services. The other RP-based company, Customer Contact Center, is linking up with the US-based Source One Communication, a provider of customer service and database management system services. Trade Secretary Mar Roxas was quoted as saying that the two ventures would generate between 3,000 to 4,000 jobs in the Philippines, and that the government would help them with various incentives.

* * *

Roxas also spoke about this new field that has opened up to us Filipinos during the official visit to Japan the other month. This field has big and exciting prospects that have barely been scratched on the surface. But one thing this business of providing services as call operators will require is continued mastery of English, which is something our educators have to pursue. This is one of our advantages over other countries in Asia and we should not give it up but improve on it. In China, as I have mentioned, they are very systematic about learning English, especially now that they are preparing for the 2008 Olympics. Even taxi-drivers are learning the language from tapes while waiting for their fare.

Here we still are wishy-washy about our language policy, and we are made to feel guilty about speaking English well, as if we can only be nationalistic when we speak only in the native tongue. I am happy to confess that I love my country in the same degree when I speak English as when I do in Filipino. I'm now happily learning to speak correct Filipino as I get to use it more and more in radio and TV programs.

* * *

In the Third Fidel V. Ramos Lecture Series under the auspices of the Ramos Peace and Development Foundation two months ago in Makati, the former president emphasized that among the ways to alleviate poverty in this country is to give the poorest sectors of society access to formal credit markets. FVR called, among others, for increasing productivity at the grassroots and facilitating the "transition of the entrepreneurial poor into the mainstream economy" by giving them access to credit. I agree wholeheartedly that grinding poverty can only be alleviated immediately at the lowest levels by giving the poor access to credit, enabling them to eke out decent livelihood. I believe in this approach, which is why I tried to convince Cecile Alvarez to feature on her Sunday evening program "Balintataw" over dzRH private-sector efforts to alleviate poverty. I'm happy to report that we are discovering so many good projects with this objective among our citizens.

* * *

Micro-credit lending has been a major concern in our radio program. Two months ago we featured Dr. Jaime Aristotle Alip, Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) president of the Micro Finance Council of the Philippines, whose NGO is engaged in this type of lending, with a vast network of some 42,000 women borrowers in six Southern Tagalog provinces. Dr. Alip's project, patterned after the concept developed by Dr. Muhammad Yunus in Bangladesh, concentrates on lending among the poorest families, and its repayment rate is nearly 100 percent. His NGO has enabled many poor borrower to make the transition to the middle class through entrepreneurship.

* * *

Recently, Cecile and I featured another NGO, the Bacolod-based Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation (NWGF) and its main program, a micro-credit project called "Dungganon." We invited the program directress, Dr. Cecile del Castillo, to explain it. Translated literally from Ilonggo, *dungganon* means honorable. This program was also based on the Bangladesh model after then Gov. Daniel Lacson met Dr. Yunus in a conference abroad. *Dungganon* extends credit mainly to women borrowers who have already demonstrated good business sense in an ongoing undertaking. The borrowers are given start-up loans of P1,000 to P5,000, which can go as high as P50,000 with a good record of repayment, at a 20-percent interest per annum.

Under Dungganon's credit cooperative system, five members, usually neighbors or relatives, form a cell and in turn several cells form a center. Self-reliance and self-sufficiency serve as the centers' lynchpin, particularly in the lowest-income and depressed rural and urban community of Negros Occidental, which was hit hard by the collapse of the sugar industry in the mid-1970s and early 1980s. Today Dungganon is found in 12 towns of Negros Occidental as well as on Bantayan Island and Tuburan in Northern Cebu, and its active members total nearly 3,500. Largely because of the efficiency of collection and the system of peer pressure, Dungganon enjoys a repayment scheme of nearly 100 percent.

They got it right

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THERE was a boy and a girl dressed in the robes of the "typical" student of the Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry. The boy's glasses were held together by a wad of tape, the girl had wild, unruly locks of hair. Immediately I recognized who they were supposed to be. "Harry Potter and Hermione!" I exclaimed.

It was the invitational premiere of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"—"truly, the first time this movie will be shown in the Philippines," the emcee announced to the delighted crowd at the THX Cinema. Long-anticipated, the subject of much speculation and excited commentary, the film opens to the public tomorrow in what is expected to be as warm and enthusiastic a reception as that accorded to "Titanic" or "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace," Hollywood blockbusters that became major hits here.

That same evening, there was another preview scheduled at another venue, and still others planned, perhaps up to the very day the movie opens in commercial theaters. Everyone, it seemed, wanted to claim "bragging rights" to having seen "Harry Potter" ahead of everyone else.

Young people, though, weren't waiting for the movie before being swept up in "Harry Potter" fever. Both hardbound and paperbound editions of the four "Harry Potter" books were selling briskly weeks before the movie's opening, a replay of the global fever that attended the launch of the fourth volume, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." In malls, stalls selling "Harry Potter" merchandise drew the curious and the acquisitive. According to my personal market researchers (my teenage daughter and her young cousins), "Harry Potter" items are this Christmas season's hottest, most in-demand presents.

A thousand-plus points to the parent, grandparent, or godparent who gives a child this Christmas a "Harry Potter" book (though you would be hard put to find a with-it child who still hasn't read at least one volume in the series), or such merchandising tie-ins as a stuffed bag of "Bertie Bott's Every-flavored Beans," an action figure from the movie, or even a "Quiddich" board game.

* * *

YES, you might be driven to say at this point, so it's a genuine pop-culture phenomenon. But how's the movie?

A primary concern of readers, who'd fallen headlong into the world of wizardry, magic and a young boy's adventures in the world of the fantastical, was whether the movie would remain true to J.K. Rowling's work and be able to transport us as much as the books had.

In this sense, the movie does not disappoint. Readers who were apt to create visuals in their heads as Rowling unfurled the adventures of Harry Potter will find that for the most part the filmmakers pulled it off. Or at least, were able to breathe life into favorite scenes. As the "Hogwarts Express" rolls through the lush English countryside, one can feel Harry's sense of thrill and trepidation as the train takes him out of London and the "muggle" world to life in another dimension and a separate reality. Hogwarts does not disappoint, especially the shifting staircases and the ghosts who float through everyone, gossiping about goings-on in the school. And if you had a hard time getting the details of Quiddich right in your head, the game in the movie makes it not only easier to understand, but downright thrilling!

The movie was most successful, I think, in its choice of child actors. Daniel Radcliffe makes for quite a credible boy wizard, though I do miss the hint of mischief that the book cover illustrations endowed Harry Potter with. Emma Watson as Hermione is much prettier than I thought the bookish, smart-alecky young woman should be, but she conveys Hermione's pluck and vulnerability well. And I loved Rupert Grint as Ron Weasley, who successfully captured the character's brashness, honesty and openhearted loyalty.

In sum, even if you haven't read one line of the "Harry Potter" books, the movie will still captivate and capture your fancy. In fact, at the premiere, I somewhat envied the hubby, who managed to elude Potter-mania in our household, as he watched the movie unfold in delighted abandon. Critics say the movie is too good an adaptation, but to this fan, the film is both a comfort and a revelation. It allowed me to revisit Harry's wonderful world, while expanding the scenes I could only vaguely conjure up in my imagination. I'm joining the queues for another look, and another, and another...

* * *

THE LONG lines that snaked through the sidewalks of the Greenhills Commercial Center and up the staircase leading to the Music Museum spoke volumes about what a big draw Regine Velasquez continues to be.

The hype surrounding a concert like her groundbreaking appearance at the Araneta Coliseum was somewhat muted, but still, say the producers, "Regine at the Movies" continues to lure crowds. Regine and her producers made quite ambitious plans—12 shows in two venues, the Music Museum (which just finished its last weekend run) and Onstage at the Greenbelt. "Is the crowd always this big?" I asked someone from MaxiMedia. "Yes, the show has sold well," she said, "and to be honest, we weren't expecting as many people considering that this is our last night here."

"We seem to have hit upon a core patronage," she went on, "people seem to have developed a habit of concert-going." But while other artists are able to draw respectable crowds, she says, "only Regine, and her male counterpart, Martin Nievera, can fill their venues for as long as they do." And I understood why, as we took our seats and Regine began singing and dishing out her wonderfully down-to-earth spiels. An intimate venue seems to fit Regine perfectly, allowing her greater rapport with her audience whom she by turns teases, cajoles, charms and even poses with. Those yearning for nostalgic movie tunes will be disappointed, since the movie themes and songs tend to be clustered around the '70s and '80s, but you can't do worse for a night of real entertainment.

Epilogue to '98

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

ON APRIL 24, 1898 the Secretary of the Navy of the United States sent the following cable: "Dewey, Hongkong, China. War has commenced between the United States and Spain. Proceed at once to the Philippine Islands; commence operations at once, particularly against the Spanish fleet. You must capture vessels or destroy them."

We all know what happened next. The so-called operations took less than four or five hours with time off for breakfast.

In an article, titled "Campaigning in the Philippines," Lt. Commander G.P. Colvocoreses, executive officer of the flagship Olympia, wrote:

"All night the calm moon looked down upon this scene of devastation, silvering alike the cross upon the quaint old church of Cavite, the grey walls of the fort and the shattered hulks in the bay. Our crew remained at the guns all night, and early in the morning a launch flying a flag of truce came out. In it were an aide-de-camp and his orderly, and they were taken to the flagship. Later in the morning the general commanding at Cavite and his staff passed us in mournful procession. They had been to the flagship to surrender. Our men stood at attention as they neared and saluted, which the Spanish soldiers returned with punctiliousness."

"The Spanish force at Cavite was about 2,000 men belonging to the navy, with a good many soldiers whose number we cannot ascertain. Their loss was estimated from 900 to 1,200 killed and wounded. The arsenal was abandoned in great haste, only a few taking time to get away with their personal effects, and large quantities of stores, provisions and ammunition fell into our hands. The church and hospitals of Cavite were filled to overflowing with dead and wounded, and 10 Spanish surgeons and some sisters of Mercy remained to take care of them.

"All the batteries in the Bay had been dismantled. Our casualties consisted of four slightly wounded on board the Baltimore. (One died but it was from a heart attack.) Some shots struck our vessels, but without doing the least harm."

By 1908 the wreck from the Battle of Manila Bay had been removed and the old Spanish naval base became the repair shop for the US Navy in the Far East. The Navy yard and town were situated on a narrow strip of land jutting out from the south shore of Manila Bay known as the Dalahican Peninsula. The yard was on the farthest point with the town behind it. On the mainland was the large town of San Roque and on the west was the naval hospital called Cañacao Hospital. Beyond the hospital was Sangley Point.

An earlier Spanish naval base had been established some six miles further down the bay at Cavite Viejo. General Alava, one of the heroes of Trafalgar, anchored his squadron there in 1845 and established an arsenal in what later became the convent at Cavite Viejo. A fine anchorage was once available at Bacoor and Cavite Viejo.

Although Alava had three deck freighters that drew 30 feet, there was no longer enough water by the American period to float a small gunboat due to the building of fish pens according to Captain Iturralde, one of Admiral Montojo's captains in the Battle of Manila Bay who had settled in Cavite.

The yard contained an administration building and the captain of the port's office dating back to the Spanish regime. There was also a memorial chapel that was constructed over the remains of a number of Spanish soldiers and men who were killed in the rebellion of 1972. A rampart contained a few obsolete guns mounted in 1998 though the only guns that took part in the battle were in Sangley Point and were now on exhibit at the yard.

Cavite proper was one of the oldest Spanish settlements, with three old and interesting churches. One dated back to the 16th century, but it was unfortunately destroyed in 1998. For a long time there were bands of robbers roaming the province and civil government was not granted until 1906.

The yard operated a ferry service for Navy people. There was also a steam ferry service between Cavite and Manila run by Teodoro Yangco. The Manila Railroad Co. also had a branch line to Cavite, which was only 25 miles away from Manila.

On the other hand there were launches operating on the Pasig River that made Los Baños, a famous spa in those days, accessible by sailing past Sta. Ana, San Pedro Makati, Guadalupe, Fort McKinley and Pasig. From there, the launch would take passengers through Laguna de Bay to Calamba, Los Baños and on to the towns of Bai, Sta. Cruz and Pagsangjan.

The Manila Railroad Co. also serviced Antipolo, an extension of Taytay that was once the seat of a powerful Filipino rajah. Antipolo had the famous shrine of Our Lady whose external appearance may not have been impressive but she represented apparently "a fortune in precious stones and gold," and hundreds went on pilgrimages in the months of May and June.

(Data from Kemlein & Johnson's "Traveler's Guide")

The unencumbered life

YOUNGBLOOD

Alma M. Gasang

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

FALL in love and get married? I'd just as soon hang myself from a tree!

My views on these subjects have always been unequivocal and seldom unstated. At the slightest opportunity, I would lecture my poor misguided friends on the merits of single blessedness. I wax lyrical on the subject, cautioning them against the hazards of falling prey to Cupid and counseling them against the folly of giving in to tender emotions.

Thanks mostly to my choice, I have a well-ordered existence. I am independent and self-sufficient, and my life runs on a pretty even keel. I'm free as a bird, undisputed mistress of all I own and I am the sole manager of my time and resources. What I say goes. I can get up and go as I please, when I please and how I please without a backward glance. I enjoy the benefits of going solo to the fullest and intend to keep things as they are.

Besides, I have this pet theory that human suffering is largely caused by love and marriage. Examine history and literature and you will see what I mean. The casualties of this malady are strewn generously all over it to be missed.

Look at Desdemona. She loved Othello with all her heart and got smothered for her pains.

Look at what love did to Samson. Shorn of his locks, he was like a lamb ready for slaughter.

Romeo and Juliet—would their story have ended tragically had they been free of the mind-numbing effects of romantic love?

And what about Medea, driven to murder her innocent children of Adele Hugo who abandoned home and family to run after her lover. Then there was Clytemnestra, whose betrayal caused the destruction of her royal family? The list is endless, and it's enough to make you shudder.

In contrast, the lives of those who have chosen to go it alone are far less cluttered and more prolific. Beethoven chose to manifest his genius unaccompanied, even after the loss of his hearing. Da Vinci, the perfect Renaissance man, eschewed love and produced his masterpieces sans a Mrs. Leo da Vinci. Emily Dickinson led a life free from unwanted male attention, turning out volumes of poetry that made her one of America's foremost poets. Henry David Thoreau, the great advocate of individualism, chose a solitary life to which he probably owed "Walden" and his other writings. Jane Austen, author of such monumental classics as "Emma" and "Pride and Prejudice," was similarly minded. Though once engaged, she was quick to come to her senses. Hers must have been the shortest engagement in history, having lasted only overnight.

This most prevalent of maladies has not spared our times either. Consider a present-day scenario drawn by one writer: Two besotted people, dreaming of living happily ever after, venture into the trap of vowing to live together "till death do us part." They gladly wear the world's smallest handcuff on their finger, not realizing that the moment they bravely uttered "I do," they actually got undone. For a time they live in Dreamland where everything seems bright and beautiful, where heartbreak is a word not yet coined. But all too soon, the bubble bursts and all that's left are two disgruntled individuals.

Then the scene changes into some appalling anecdote I once read about: The disgruntled husband snaps at the disgruntled wife who yells at the disgruntled children. The children take it out on their dog and so the dog, in retribution, bites the neighbors. This bleak cycle continues, and unless we who have enough discernment get our act together, the world will soon be overrun by lost souls hankering after "what might have been."

A dismal picture, huh? Who in her right mind would want a part of this? Certainly not I!

This, I say, is not the life for me. Give it to those who are soft in the head, those who cannot profit from other people's experiences, the unfortunate ones who have to be hit on the head to see and who have more courage than intelligence. In short, those people who have suicidal tendencies. As for me, give me the unencumbered life any day.

Now if only I can teach my heart to think!

Alma M. Gasang, who wrote this piece three years ago when she was 25, has tested the boundaries of her freedom by living all by herself in a tiny house situated "far from the madding crowd."

Life with Homer Simpson

Lou Albano

MY dad is Homer Simpson. It frightens me sometimes to see all the similarities between the four-fingered yellow cartoon character and my old man. Just like Homer, my dad loves beer, has an undying affection for television, is into weird hobbies, and is balding. He loves chocolate cake as much as Homer adores donuts. And remember how Homer bought Lisa her saxophone? Well, my dad did the same thing for me.

I started thinking about these similarities between my dad and Homer when we were fighting over the remote control. I was channel surfing one night and about to settle on "Sex and the City" when an infomercial caught his attention. I didn't want to go back to whatever channel it was on but he insisted, arguing that it was he who was paying the bills.

It turned out that the ad was about this thing that you insert inside your nose to make it appear slightly high-bridged. He was so fascinated with the idea that he started calling the number flashing on the screen. Good thing he got bored doing the flash-redial routine on the phone and simply gave up the idea.

Aside from being preoccupied with infomercials, my father is very much into little freaks of nature called pets. We have an aquarium that is big enough for seven fishes (we had seven a couple of years ago) but has only two, one of which swims upside down. This fish has his gargantuan belly on top and his sad, lost eyes below. At first, my dad thought he was feeding the fishes too much and cut down the food he was giving them. The fishes starved to death except for the oddity.

Then dad had this brilliant idea that maybe it was pregnant. So he bought all these underwater plants that made the aquarium look like a tropical rainforest. But a year after having a forest in the aquarium and no eggs laid, dad decided that maybe the pregnancy idea wasn't brilliant after all. So he decided to go back to his regular feeding habit, which means five times a day, including midnight snacks.

Among all my experiences though, I think I would have the hardest time forgetting the time he bought me my first electric guitar. I was a high school freshman then, completely into alternative music and constantly bothering the whole family with supposedly loud music and an angst-filled attitude. One day a friend came to our house with her precious, new Fender stratocaster. Instead of doing our school project, we started jamming, she plucking on her strat and me strumming my trusty, old Lumanog.

My dad thought the sight was pathetic. So he decided to bring me a step closer to my dream of becoming a rock star and bought me a new RJ electric guitar that didn't sound much different from my Lumanog. It wasn't much but it still was an electric guitar.

I have all these experiences with my dad. From the ultra-cool inhuman sessions we occasionally have to the most embarrassing, with him crying while listening to the Seven Last Words. From the weird, like seeing him burst into the room looking for the shaver because he wanted to sport a skinhead, to the most infuriating, with him asking questions twice and not stopping until he has successfully asked them in succession. From the most macho, like bossing everyone in the house because he is the head of the family, to being unashamed to show the whole world his love for his wife.

There he is, clad in his Halloween-print pajamas commanding full respect and devotion, stridently snoring as if sucking the whole world dry. And then it strikes me: All fathers, be it Homer or your very own, have a certain peculiarity, which is endearing but really embarrassing. It can really damage you mentally and occasionally drive you nuts, but there's nothing you can do about it. Alter all, dad wouldn't be dad without these little personal details. It irks you to death but you learn to love it anyway. It's what makes your family a family.

Lou Albano, 20, is a communication arts senior at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Muslims want bombing stopped during Ramadan

THIS refers to the Agence France Presse article published by the INQUIRER last Nov. 4, entitled "Saudi anti-war sentiment seen flaring over Ramadan." I find some points raised in the article exaggerated.

Let me state the position of Saudi Arabia regarding terrorism.

First, Saudi Arabia, the cradle of Islam in the world, has been the victim of terrorist acts for the last 20 years, Saudi Arabia has repeatedly expressed its condemnation of terrorist acts wherever they take place and whoever the perpetrators are.

Second, Saudi Arabia, together with the Gulf states, the Arab countries and the Muslim world have signed pacts among themselves to combat terrorism.

Third, Saudi Arabia is calling for an international conference preferably under the auspices of the United Nations to identify and deal comprehensively with the problem of terrorism.

Fourth, the Saudi government and the Saudi people will continue their efforts to support world peace and security, and will not allow such acts of terrorism to compromise their cherished values, principles and strong beliefs.

The *ulamas* (religious leaders) headed by the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia strongly condemned the terrorist acts of Sept. 11 in the United States and considered, in their *fatwa*, those responsible for the attacks as killers because their victims were innocent people.

However, it is the general sentiment in the Muslim world that bombing against Afghanistan should be stopped for the month of Ramadan. From Indonesia to Pakistan and the Middle East, we are in agreement on this matter.—**SALEH MOH'D ALGHAMDI, ambassador, Embassy of Saudi Arabia**

An effort to help world's children

WE at Unicef were disheartened to read "Kiko Pangilinan, child abuser?" on "Waker-uppers" last Nov. 4. The column suggested that Sen. Francis Pangilinan was exploiting his infant daughter, Frankie, by making her appear in Unicef's "Say Yes for Children" TV spots.

Unicef invited several celebrities and political leaders to appear in TV spots promoting global activism for children. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo appeared in the initial spot for the launching of the campaign.

The senator was one of those who kindly gave their time and effort to the project. The script originally called for the senator and his wife, Sharon Cuneta, to appear with Frankie. Unfortunately, Cuneta's professional engagements conflicted with Unicef's taping schedule. Nevertheless, we managed to produce a moving and effective TV spot to convey that children's rights are adults' responsibilities, and that fathers play a significant role in their children's development.

The taping could not be considered "work." Pangilinan and Frankie arrived at 6 p.m., and the taping was completed by 7:30 p.m. As you can see from the spot, Frankie was asleep most of that time.

Incidentally, the "Philippine Say Yes" TV spots produced by Electromedia—which has another spot with Unicef ambassador Gary Valenciano and his family, and another with Serena Dalrymple—have been nominated for an International Emmy Award for the most creative and effective promotion of "Say Yes for Children." The other nominees are TBC TV Studio (Georgia), Ace Communications Ltd. (Kenya), and BBC1 (United Kingdom). The winner will be announced at the International Emmy Awards Gala in New York on Nov. 19, 2001.—**TERREL HILL, representative, United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), 6/F Neda, Makati Bldg., 106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City**

Time for Misuari to face reality

ONE can only imagine how painful and bitter it is for Nur Misuari to be removed as governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao after enjoying that position for five years. His term was extended even though he had very few achievements.

But whether Misuari likes it or not, he has to face the reality and step down from the post when the ARMM elections are over and the new governor assumes office next year. This is one of the reasons he is now crying foul and threatening to go back to the hills with the remnants of the seemingly exhausted Moro National Liberation Front forces.

But does he have sufficient courage and valor to do that? It remains to be seen. It is not simple and easy to sleep in the jungles and to be bombarded with artillery fire, hunted down by soldiers and go hungry day and night after a long period of enjoying a luxurious life

Months ago, Misuari was stripped of the MNLF chairmanship by his close comrades in the organization, the so-called 15-man council. One of the council's members, Dr. Farouk Hussin, is the administration candidate for governor in the Nov. 26 ARMM elections. Misuari knows the reasons why his hardcore comrades, among them Hussin, Hatimil Hassan (MNLF vice chair), Mayor Muslimin Sema of Catabato City and Gov. Yusuf Jikiri of Jolo, have taken this bold step. Although they know that their action would further divide the already fragmented Moro people, they did it to salvage what is left of a situation that has been turned upside down and rendered chaotic by Misuari.

According to one member of the council; Misuari hardly listens to the opinions and ideas of his colleagues in the MNLF and always disregards them especially in regard to policy and decision making. He always insists that his ideas and decisions alone are correct and should prevail over those of the others. They were always kept outside the *kulambo* and deprived of a role to play.

According to his former close associates, in five years time Misuari has amassed a large amount of wealth. Although it is unconfirmed, many people say that he owns buildings, schools, bank deposits to the tune of millions of pesos if not dollars in foreign banks while his former close comrades in the MNLF have none.

It is undeniable that Misuari still has influence among the Moro people. He has certainly a place in the history of the Moro people as a revolutionary leader.

But it is naive for Misuari to make threats now. Instead he should be contented with having enjoyed such a long and extensive popularity. To prevent the further erosion of his popularity and the respect of the Moro people, he should extend the olive branch to the 15-man executive council and throw his support behind all former MNLF members who are running in the ARMM elections, so that those who will be leading the ARMM will be his former comrades in the MNLF. With such a rational and sensible move, Misuari will be able to preserve the unity of the Moro people and perpetuate the glory and prestige of the MNLF instead of undoing its hard-fought gains. He should accept the fact that everything has its appointed end.—**MARGANI MOHAMMAD, Isabela, Basilan**

Most unfortunate town in Metro Manila

DO you know what is arguably the most unfortunate town in the Philippines? It is Montalban, Rizal.

Why? Because the garbage of Metro Manila has been rejected by all municipalities in the Philippines except Montalban. And because its mayor, Cuerpo, knows that any ordinary intelligent person knows that he agreed to have Metro Manila garbage deposited in Montalban, because he and his councilors will be secretly rewarded by MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos.

But he does not care. Why? Perhaps because he and his councilors are completely shameless.

Cuerpo claims that he accepted the Metro Manila garbage, for the progress of Montalban. He says that the garbage dump at Payatas discourages people from proceeding to Montalban. He asserts that if the Metro Manila garbage is deposited in Montalban, the Payatas dump will be closed, and people and progress can reach Montalban.

This is not true. The national highway (main road) passes through Marikina, San Mateo, then Montalban. The road that passes by Payatas is the provincial road (secondary road) that starts at Litex, then Payatas, then Montalban. So all people and progress can reach Montalban through the national highway or main road.—**LYDIA D. GONZALES, 752 Constancia St., Sampaloc, Manila**

Time for students to man the polls

IT'S time for teachers to be freed from poll duties and to let college students take their place as proposed by Education Secretary Raul S. Roco.

Teachers are already politicized and easily coerced or corrupted. Many of them don't know how to count during elections. But college students are strong idealists and not exposed to corruption. We should therefore congratulate Roco for trying his best to ensure a clean and honest election.

It's also time to declare martial law because the government is not functioning very well. The judiciary, Congress, the police and military and other government agencies can no longer be trusted. That's why, corruption, kidnappings and other crimes are on the rise.

And it's, time for retired justices and judges to return their retirement entitlements if they want to practice law.

It's also time for priests end preachers to practice what they preach.—**OSCAR R. LANDICHO, orlandicho@hotmail.com**

LETTERS

Incinerators can't be the 'final solution' to garbage

IF Metro Manila will use incinerators, these should be put right beside the houses of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and of Caloocan Rep. Edgar Erice. These local officials claim that incinerators are the "final solution" to the garbage problem in the metropolis. Atienza even proposes the immediate construction of at least one incinerator in each of the five districts in Manila.

Are these local officials out of their mind? The incinerators being made available to us today can immediately reduce waste to 25 percent by burning. But will create more environmental and health problems for people over time. Scientific studies have shown that these incinerators emit large volumes of toxic pollutants to the environment, including dioxins, one of the most toxic organic pollutants known to humans.

One such incinerator is the one that a consortium led by Jancom International of Australia was supposed to build in San Mateo, Rizal. It was a $350-million incinerator capable of burning 4,500 tons of garbage per day. A 2,000-ton per day incinerator emits an estimated 8.72 tons of toxic pollutants and suspended particulates into the air. This emission is equivalent roughly to the pollution emitted by 28,000 cars running about 54 kilometers per day.

If incinerators are built in Metro Manila, this will further aggravate the already sorry state of the environment and health in the metropolis. The National Capital Region (NCR) which is one of the most densely populated cities in the world, is also the most polluted region in the country. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources admits that Metro Manila is one of the top five cities in the world having the poorest air quality. For now, vehicle emission in Metro Manila accounts for almost 70 percent of the air pollution.

The absence of incinerators is not the cause of the garbage problem in the metropolis. Neither will allowing their use be the "final response" to the problem.

The more appropriate response in dealing with the garbage problem should still be the principle of waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting, which the government find so difficult to comprehend and apply. We haven't heard of a program for waste reduction. Neither is the MMDA telling the multi-million fast-food chains to phase out use of disposable non-biodegradable packaging materials. It should have painstakingly addressed the problems in implementing garbage segregation plans. There are no short-cut solutions to this problem, especially an economically and socially rooted one like garbage.—**CLEMENTE G. BAUTISTA JR., policy advocacy officer, Kalikasan-PNE, 175-B Kamias Ext., Road, Sikatuna Vill., Quezon City**

Appreciation

"*WALA nang natitira*," (No one's left), Dolphy sobbed, in front of television cameras. He was mourning the death of Nida Blanca, one of his best friends and co-star.

I suspect that heartrending scene is repeated every day all throughout the country and should make us think: How do you console people like Dolphy, old and wise to the world yet feeling so helpless as they see their contemporaries leaving? And seeing Nida Blanca's mourning mother, who must be in her 80s, I wondered about what we do for parents whose children die before them?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

It wasn't just Nida Blanca's death that got me reflecting. My last weekend was a sad one, attending a funeral and a wake. First there were family friends, a man who died at 61, leaving behind a mother who was 93. The second case was also difficult because it involved a former student, Marge, who was only 22 and just graduated from college last year. She was killed in a car accident.

Advances in public health have resulted in dramatic increases of life expectancy, but this has also resulted in new dilemmas. Someone in his or her 40s mourning for a deceased parent is very different from an octogenarian grieving for a deceased spouse, friend, or child. Already burdened with heart problems and other diseases of old age, as well as by feelings of isolation, mourning can be more traumatizing for older people. The males may have even more difficulties coping in cultures such as our own, where men are not allowed to be as open as women in expressing their grief. In a way, Dolphy may have helped many older Filipinos by letting them know it is all right to cry when you lose a loved one.

My point is that when someone dies, we often give all our attention to the bereaved spouse or children, and forget that older relatives and friends may be suffering more grievously at the side. We need to be thinking about special arrangements for older mourners. I'm glad several hotels have sprouted along Araneta Avenue in Quezon City, close to the funeral parlors. One of the hotels proved useful because we checked in the old mother I was talking about earlier. That way she could grieve in a semi-private setting, with her close friends but away from the more hysterical atmosphere of large crowds. Having the hotel room also spared her from having to battle Manila's traffic on top of dealing with her loss.

The death of my former student reminded me of another important social change in the way we look at death. Until about 50 years ago, child-rearing was a fairly incidental matter. Diseases and natural disasters claimed the lives of many children quite early so there was an element of resignation among parents when a child died. Remember, too, that in the past, people married much earlier so parents "lost" their children quite early. The ties with parents were therefore fairly loose.

In our modern times, we think of the young as healthy, almost invincible. Also, we invest much more in our children in terms of emotions and time, with much grander hopes and expectations. I speak here as someone without biological children of my own but who's done a lot of "accidental parenting." I usually get the anthropology majors in their third year, teaching them several courses. In their last semester before graduation, I take out an entire "brood" (numbering up to 30 at a time) for fieldwork and full-time parenting. I've had my share of the fretting and worrying, as well as the feelings of joy and pride listening to their stories and seeing their excitement as they discover new horizons in life.

Some readers will remember my columns about our field school in Dimiao, Bohol, last year. Marge was one of the participants. I grieve, too, even as realize that my grief can only be a fraction of what her parents and grandparents are going through.

As I sat quietly in the funeral parlor, I could almost hear Marge laughing (she was one of the most cheerful students I ever had). The term "*viva*" comes to mind—she was so full of zest for life. In remembering Marge's ebullience, I realized how vital these memories can be in helping mourners, young or old, with the coping process.

A welcome trend I see in American and British newspapers is the posting of notices called "Appreciation"—rather than obituaries—with a brief description of the person's life. These appreciation notices aren't all empty praise; some in fact can be quite irreverent, recalling many lighter moments in the person's life. An obituary (from the Latin *obitus*, death) emphasizes loss while an appreciation commemorates the good times we had with our loved ones.

In a way, we already have this celebratory element in Filipino wakes, with mourners staying late into the night recounting the deceased's many accomplishments and adventures (and, albeit in whispers, foibles and misadventures). It doesn't matter then whether one dies at 22 or 82 because the stories remind us of the myriad ways in which the deceased made a mark on our lives.

Older people can play special roles here with their many vivid memories of people and events stretching back across the generations. As these caretakers of family lore begin to talk, they are really bringing back all those involved, living and dead, in a reunion of sorts. Telling these stories allow Lola and Lola to come to terms with their grief while hearing the stories allow listeners to realize the wake is not so much a time for saying goodbye to the deceased than of a tribute, of saying thank you. In death, an appreciation of life keeps spirits, and the human spirit, together.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

What are the perks and privileges of lawmakers?

THIS has reference to your editorial last month on "abused privileges" and "undeserved titles."

Of course I am referring to our senators and congressmen and women, including mayors, who "glory" in their present positions together with their escorts who are sometimes as abusive as their "masters." We did experience in Manila what Leyte Rep. Ted Failon was complaining about. Unfortunately, we didn't see who was the official riding in the tinted car.

We fully agree and support the suggestions of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel that certain traffic privileges be taken away from some officials, and that only the five highest-ranking officials be entitled to the use of courtesy car plates, while everyone else should be made to follow the same traffic rules that we ordinary citizens have to follow.

Likewise, the use of the term "honorable" and "your honor" when members of Congress address their colleagues should be done away with. *Nakakahiyang pakinggan!* Are they really that venerable to deserve the title?

It's true: some lawmakers do not even know the real meaning of honor and, if I may add, service, which are things they really lack or don't have at all. If they truly deserve the honor, people will call them "honorable" whether they like it or not.

Speaking of abuses, is it possible that members of Congress come out with guidelines on the benefits and privileges they receive as public servants? For instance, how many travels abroad are they allowed to attend conferences or seminars in line with their work? Are there any limit to their travel? Do they have to be accompanied by their family, friends, even *alalay* at the expense of taxpayers' money?

We are aware that when these officials travel abroad they can easily ask for allowances for their hotel accommodations, shopping spree, clothing, etc. For the sake of honesty and transparency, public officials must give an accurate accounting of their travel expenses to the public.

Lastly, we would like to thank Pimentel for those wonderful ideas even though he is a member of Congress. We know for a fact that he remains a simple and honest man. His grown-up children would lovingly call their dad "Tatay" in spite of their status in life. We certainly hope he will stay as noble and great and as independent as he is now.

Mabuhay po kayo!—**SISTER EVA T. PALENCIA, D.C., Asilo de la Milagrosa, Cebu City**

Wrong info on fund release

WE are writing this to rectify the erroneous information that correspondent Frank Cimatu of your Northern Luzon bureau reported last Nov. 14. In the article, "The trouble with peace zones of Sagada, Bangilo," Cimatu inaccurately wrote: "It turned out that Alberto Bernardo, then Bangilo special development area coordinator, was so engrossed in his mayoral bid that the funds were not release..."

I wish to state that I am the former executive director of the National Program for Unification and Development Council and I have never been a special development area coordinator for Abra, Bangilo peace zone. More importantly, contrary to Cimatu's report, I never ran for any elected office. Thus, it is unfair for Cimatu to attribute to me the alleged failure to release the funds for the Bangilo special development area.—**ALBERTO A. BERNARDO, director IV, Property and Procurement Office, Office of the President of the Philippines**

The WORLD
LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Taliban forces seek way out of last bastion

WASHINGTON/KABUL—War-weary Taliban fighters, left in tatters by ferocious US bombing and threatened by their former al-Qaida comrades, were reportedly seeking a way out of their last northern stronghold while opposition leaders agreed to talks on the formation of a broad-based Afghan government.

US officials said they welcomed moves toward an inclusive government to rule post-Taliban Afghanistan but said catching Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network, blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on America, was still their main objective.

The Taliban, who have lost most of Afghanistan in the last 10 days, were still holding out in the cities of Kunduz in the north and Kandahar in the south. But heavy US aerial bombardment and shelling by the opposition Northern Alliance, which has Kunduz surrounded, appeared to be taking a toll.

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported on Sunday that Taliban fighters told the Northern Alliance they want to withdraw from Kunduz with safe passage guaranteed by the United Nations. The report could not be independently verified.

Commander Dadullah, former chief of Taliban forces in Mazar-i-Sharif, which fell to the Northern Alliance last week, and Comdr. Fazil, who headed the militia in northern Takhar province, presented the proposal, the Pakistan-based AIP said.

The alliance earlier offered the chance of surrender to the Taliban inside Kunduz, but not to the foreign al-Qaida hardliners fighting alongside them.

When some frightened Afghan Taliban tried to give up, they were killed by the Arabs, Pakistanis, Chechens and other foreign fighters associated with al-Qaida, a Northern Alliance spokesperson said.

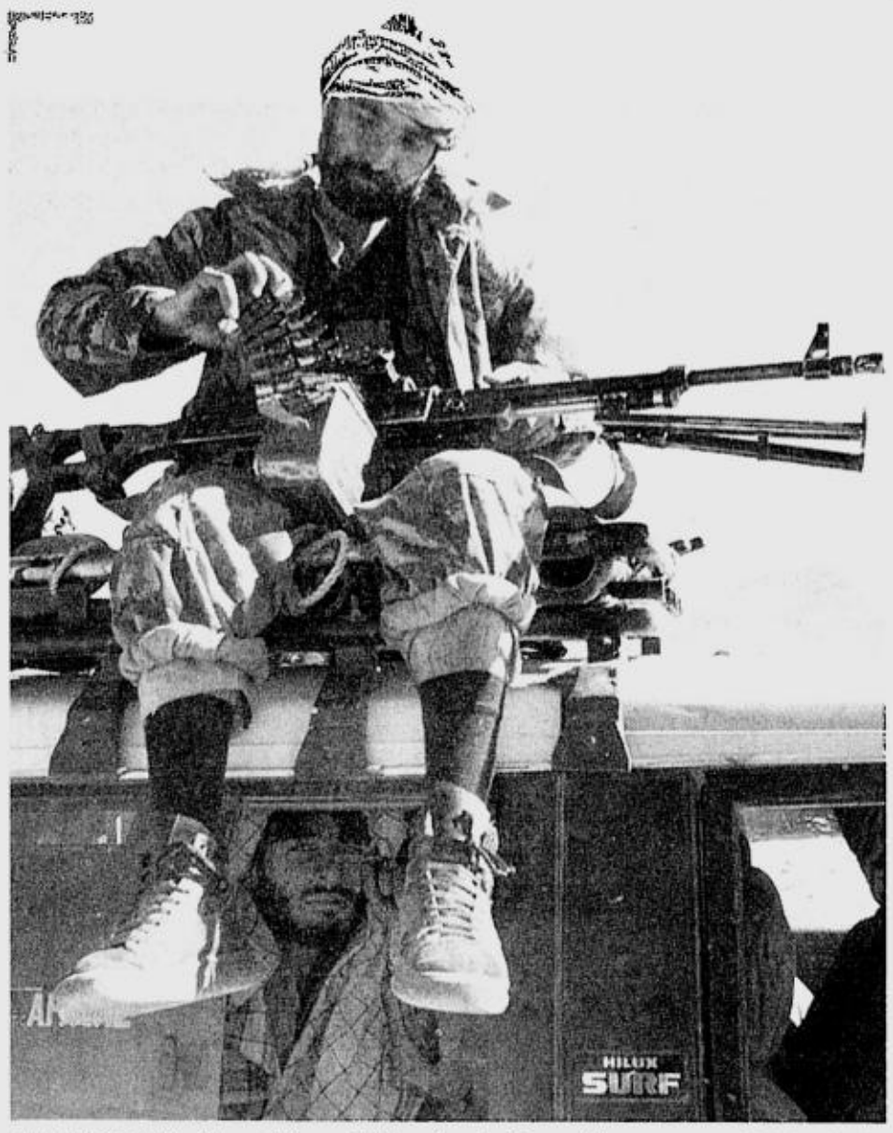
Six Arab fighters blew themselves up earlier this week rather than give in to advancing opposition forces, the spokesperson said.

Heavy bombing also was reported in Kandahar, the Taliban's last bastion in southern Afghanistan, but there was no sign the Islamic fundamentalist group was ready to abandon it.

They extended a curfew in the city, warning residents they would be shot if they came out of their homes after 8 p.m., witnesses arriving in Pakistan said.

AIP described air strikes on Saturday night and Sunday morning as some of the heaviest in 43 days of bombing and said they killed 46 people.

Pentagon officials said about 75 strike aircraft took part in raids on Saturday on areas near Kabul and against al-Qaida and Taliban targets throughout Afghanistan, including tunnels and caves where the fighters holed up. *Reuters*



AN AFGHAN Northern Alliance fighter checks his machine gun near Maidan Shahr village 30 km west of Kabul Nov. 18. Afghanistan's resurgent Northern Alliance says it is ready to meet rival tribes this week in Europe to discuss the shape of the future government. REUTERS

Mass grave of Taliban foes found

SHINDAND, Afghanistan—Northern alliance forces showed journalists a mass grave Sunday they said contained the bodies of anti-Taliban fighters massacred by the Taliban before the fundamentalist militia fled this corner of western Afghanistan.

The alliance said the grave near Shindand military airport was found Saturday and accused the Taliban of killing the 27 fighters some time in the past three weeks in circumstances that are not clear. Many of the bodies had their wrists bound with rope.

Shindand is 130 km south of Herat, the western Afghanistan city near the Iranian border that fell to the Northern Alliance last week following the fall of the capital, Kabul.

Shindand air base, the second-largest air base used by the Soviets during their 1979-89 war, was hit hard by the United States in early October in the bombing campaign that helped the Northern Alliance wrest large parts of Afghanistan from the Taliban.

The United States targeted Taliban military and government installations after the militia refused to hand over Osama bin Laden, the chief suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington. Bin Laden remains at large, believed somewhere in the part of Afghanistan still controlled by the Taliban.

Also Sunday, five Iranian diplomats began cleaning up their gutted consulate in nearby Herat, hoping later this week to reopen. It would be the first diplomatic presence in western Afghanistan since the US bombing began five weeks ago.

The Iranian consulate was torched by a mob of several hundreds in May after the mysterious bombing of a local mosque. The Taliban's Foreign Ministry had blamed the bombing on "terrorists within Iran." Iran withdrew its consular staff from Herat, which lies 120 km east of the Iranian border.

The Iranian flag flew above the consulate as workers carried out burned furniture. Fifteen gutted vehicles stood in the consulate's parking lot. *AP*

US confident of tracking down Bin Laden

WASHINGTON—US officials Sunday expressed confidence they would track down chief terror suspect Osama bin Laden, following a claim he had been localized in southern Afghanistan, where his Taliban protectors were in disarray.

"We're going to get him out of his hole sooner or later, but we'll get him," Secretary of State Colin Powell told ABC News.

Younis Qanooni, the interior minister of the opposition Northern Alliance, claimed Bin Laden was hiding at a base 130 km east of Kandahar, the stronghold of the Taliban militia that had ruled most of Afghanistan until a week ago.

The Taliban said Bin Laden was not in an area under their control and said they did not know whether he remained in Afghanistan, where he had been their "guest" for years.

"The Taliban are trying to cheat the international community so that they stop the aerial bombardments," Qanooni said. "According to my information, Bin Laden is still in . . . Maruf. He has training camps there and strong underground bunkers."

London's Sunday Times newspaper said US and British forces had narrowed the search for Bin Laden to 78 sq. km. of rugged terrain in southern Afghanistan.

Northern Alliance forces and tribal warlords have routed the Taliban in much of Afghanistan, cornering the hardline Islamic militia in Kandahar and the northern city of Kunduz. *AFP*

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SMART SIM Swap Your Way to the MTV Asia Aw

Excitement and anticipation among young Filipinos nationwide for the inaugural MTV Asia Awards to be held in Singapore on February 2, 2002, will surely double with the launch of SMART's Barkada SIM Swap Promo on November 20, 2001, in Manila and on November 22 in the provinces.

SMART Communications, Inc. is the Philippine partner sponsor of the MTV Asia Awards which will pay tribute to the viewers' choices of the most amazing artists or artistic creations across the region.

From November 20, 2001, to January 10, 2002, all SMART Group/Barkada SIM swappers with a minimum of four members each shall be given a raffle coupon for a chance to win a trip to Singapore for 4 plus 1 person to watch the MTV Asia Awards with Php 25,000.00 pocket money for each winning member.

All group SIM swappers should fill out the raffle coupon with their name, address, SMART Buddy/Gold celfone number, signature and submit their entries to authorized TSI agents or SMART Customer Care Officers.

Interested promo participants may group SIM swap at all TSI branches, SMART Wireless Centers or any SMART school or mall event nationwide.

Four lucky groups will win a trip to Singapore to watch the MTV Asia Awards plus pocket money of Php 25,000.00 cash for each member.

Twenty different awards will be given out at the 2002 MTV Asia Awards, including 11 "Favorite Music Artist" awards from territories around the region, six "International Music" category awards, one "Fashion" category award, one "Film" category award and one "Inspiration" award. Nominees for each category have been compiled from votes of key figures from the Asian

...ards

music, entertainment and fashion industries.

Winners will be announced at a ceremony to be held before a live audience of more than 7,000 fans at the Singapore Indoor Stadium, which will include the four lucky barkadas who will use the Singapore trip from SMART - Barkada SIM Swap Promo. The ceremony will be taped and aired to over 150 million viewers across Asia, with highlights being seen on MTV's channels around the world.

Nominees for each category will be promoted on MTV's six branded and localized sites across Asia from November 12, 2001.

All award categories except for the "Inspiration" award will be selected by the viewers and fans in Hong Kong through an open poll from November 12, 2001 to January 12, 2002. Viewers can vote at local venue partner outlets in each market. In the Philippines, they can also access the voting via MTV on SMART. The "Inspiration" award will be a special honor presented by MTV to either an inspirational individual who has come achievers across Asia, a band or an organization that has contributed to the betterment of Asian youth and the whole region.

According to Frank Brown, President of MTV Asia, "It really

...ing for a barkada to participate in the Swap Promo and have a chance to win an unforgettable trip to Singapore and participate in the inaugural MTV Asia Awards. The MTV Asia Awards will provide a platform to bring together international and Asian talent and to showcase them globally via our network of channels."

SMART Communications is proud to be a part of this momentous celebration of youth culture through the unique lineup of music and pop. MTV Asia and its other partners including the vast and diverse talent that the region has to offer.

...gins on November 22, 2001 in the provinces.

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...the MTV Asia Awards plus pocket money of ₱25,000.00 to each barkada member in the ...of 5 persons per winning group. The prize is convertible to cash (₱200,000.00) ...mail:

...108 Herrera St., Legarda Village, Makati City

...) and their SMART SIM cards. Winners of the trip to Singapore must also present both ...

...poration and their respective dependents as well as relatives up to the second degree of ...

...will be notified via text within 48 hours after the group leader/guardian has been ...with the MTV Asia Awards Trip to Singapore contest. The winners will be ...00 in the January 15, 2002 raffle draw.

...cash prize if they facilitated the group SIM swap of the winning group SIM swappers. ...prize if they facilitated the SIM swap of the winning individual SIM swapper.

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SMART is the proud official partner sponsor in the Philippines. The MTV Asia Awards is proudly sponsored by SMART in the Philippines.

US warns 'time is coming' to junk ABM pact

WASHINGTON—The United States warned Sunday it soon would have to move beyond the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty to accommodate new tests of its proposed national missile defense system.

But a top Republican lawmaker suggested that despite the lack of a formal agreement on modifying or replacing the treaty at last week's US-Russian summit, US President George W. Bush and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, may have reached a tacit understanding on how to tackle the thorny issue.

During their talks in Washington and Crawford, Texas, Bush and Putin failed to agree on a way for the United States to avoid treaty constraints and proceed with a rigorous testing program of its missile defense system.

The accord, based on the concept of mutual assured destruction, bars the United States and Russia from having nationwide defenses against ballistic missiles.

Underscoring the president's determination to forge ahead with the system's testing program, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said Sunday "the time is coming where our testing programs will start to bump up against the constraints of the treaty."

"We're not going to violate the treaty, and that means that, one way or another, we're going to have to move beyond the ABM Treaty," she said on NBC's "Meet the Press" program.

Secretary of State Colin Powell had a similar message to the Russians.

"They know that sooner or later that testing that we have to do will run into the constraints of the ABM Treaty and when that happens we have got to get out of the constraints of the ABM Treaty," Powell said on "Fox News Sunday."

He declined to say when the testing program would conflict with the treaty, saying the schedule would be worked out by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Last month, in a bid to avoid controversy ahead of the Bush-Putin summit, the Pentagon called off two missile defense tests that US officials said could have been seen as a violation of the accord.

White House and Pentagon officials declined to say Sunday whether the comments by Powell and Rice meant that the delayed tests had now been rescheduled.

The Sept. 11 attacks on the United States had the unintended consequence of bolstering the missile defense program, as many lawmakers concluded that the threat of a missile strike against the United States might be more realistic than they had previously thought.

After previously stripping more than one billion dollars from Bush's budget request for missile defense, the Democratic-controlled US Senate made an about-face and gave the Pentagon all of the $8.3 billion asked for the program. *AFP*

Sharon unyielding before EU chiefs

JERUSALEM—A top-level EU delegation pushing for a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process crashed Sunday into Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's insistent demand for seven days' total calm before any return to the bargaining table.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell, due to set out Washington's vision for the region in a keynote address in Kentucky on Monday, appeared to side with Sharon, calling on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to make "100 percent effort" to end the violence and pave the way for peace talks.

The European Union's foreign policy chief Javier Solana, however, called Sharon's demand a "stupidity," which he said played into the hands of extremists bent on scuppering peace efforts.

"We are demanding a complete ending of violence, not a declining of violence . . . seven days of testing, no less," before going forward with the internationally drafted and approved Mitchell plan, Sharon said.

Mitchell plan

The Mitchell plan provides for a halt to violence, a six-week cooling off period, a freeze on Jewish settlements in Palestinian territories and a series of confidence-building measures.

Sharon, speaking at a news conference with Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt, slammed Arafat, accusing his administration of using EU aid money to buy weapons to turn on Israel.

"I can only recommend you do not transfer your funds to the Palestinian Authority as your money will then be used to purchase weapons and fire-arms, weapons which will be directed against the state of Israel," Sharon said.

He accused Arafat of being the "source of this terror and incitement" in more than a year of unrest that has left close to 1,000 people dead, most of them Palestinians.

The Palestinians quickly condemned the statement, with chief negotiator Saeb Erakat saying Sharon "aims with this to destroy the Palestinian Authority and continue his aggression, and kill any international initiatives."

Sharon also said he would not release funds due to the Palestinian Authority from customs revenues which Israel has blocked since the start of the Palestinian uprising, or intifada, in September 2000.

"We can't pay the salaries of killers," he said.

Solana told reporters Sharon's refusal to negotiate under fire was "stupidity," since it gave "those opposed to the peace process the chance to break it."

Very tough

Romani Prodi, the European Commission president travelling in the top-level delegation, also said Sharon had been "very tough."

Sharon and Verhofstadt met again late Sunday for 90 minutes of "informal" talks on "security problems" at Sharon's office which enabled "points of view to be clarified," Verhofstadt's spokesperson Alain Gerlache said, without giving further details.

An Arab official in Jordan said the EU had produced a document based on UN resolutions and linking the creation of an independent Palestinian state to international and Arab guarantees for the security of Israel.

The EU delegation was given a frosty reception here, with one Israeli government official describing the European Union as "pro-Arab and anti-Israeli." *AFP*

SHOOTING STARS SHOW REUTERS

A shower of Leonid meteors streak across the sky over Mount Fuji, central Japan, in the early hours of Nov. 19 in this time exposure. The headlights from cars passing by can be seen at the bottom of the frame. Many star gazers anxiously awaited the display of meteors after British astronomers said there would be an extraordinary number of meteors visible in East Asia including Japan.

Iran kids sanctioned for failing to trample on US flag

TEHRAN—Iranian schoolchildren who failed to trample on the US flag on Nov. 4, the anniversary of the US Embassy seizure in Tehran, were punished Monday by losing a mark for "discipline," a parent said.

On Nov. 4, school heads called on their pupils to participate in the 22-year tradition of marking the 1979 embassy seizure by Islamic radicals in Tehran by chanting anti-US slogans and walking on the Stars and Stripes.

"But this year, because of the (Sept. 11) attacks, some schoolchildren in Tehran refused to take part in this practice. Despite the insistence of heads, they remained silent," refusing to chant the traditional "Death to America," the parent said.

"At the time nothing happened, but they said they would introduce harsh sanctions. Today, on their school report, one mark was taken off for 'discipline,'" the mother said.

"Losing one mark out of 20 is not bad, we were expecting worse," a 13-year-old pupil said.

On Nov. 4, 1979, between 300 and 400 radical Islamist students stormed the embassy compound by climbing over the walls, and seized the embassy.

After a brief resistance by US Marine guards the students took 52 US staff members hostage and held them for a total of 444 days, leading to the end of diplomatic ties between the two countries in 1980.

This year's anniversary rally in Tehran was relatively muted, with most of the participants schoolchildren, aged from 10 upwards, bussed in for the occasion. *AFP*

Singaporean can't reclaim 'gift of love'

SINGAPORE—A married man's bid to reclaim $131,868 worth (240,000 Singaporean dollars) of gifts from his mistress was rejected by a court, according to a report in the Straits Times Monday.

Ng Hai Hock, 38, married with two children, claimed the money given to his former lover Lily Wang was a loan but the court ruled it as a "gift of love," which under the law was not returnable.

According to Wang, the two met when she was working as a manager in a short-time hotel in 1992 and subsequently became lovers.

During the course of their relationship, Ng showered her with gifts including a 220,000-dollar deposit for a flat and 20,000 dollars to buy household appliances.

Apart from a diamond ring worth 20,000 dollars and a Louis Vuitton handbag, Ng also gave her a supplementary credit card. They addressed each other affectionately as "husband and wife," Wang said. *AFP*

Spain, UK end impasse, resume talks on Gibraltar

MADRID, Spain—Ending a four-year impasse, the foreign ministers of Britain and Spain are to resume talks this week with both sides professing optimism that they can tackle the centuries-old dispute over the Rock of Gibraltar.

But both parties are aware that looming as large as the limestone rock itself is the avowed opposition to any accord by the some 30,000 inhabitants of Gibraltar, a British colony located on Spain's southern tip.

Picking up on yearly talks that began in 1984 but ran aground in 1997, Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Pique is to meet with his British counterpart Jack Straw for a morning of talks in the northeastern Spanish city of Barcelona on Tuesday.

Gibraltar's Chief Minister Peter Caruana has refused to attend on grounds of being denied the same vetoing rights as Britain and Spain—a demand dismissed by Madrid.

The meeting represents the "first time in history" that there is "a clear political willingness on Britain's behalf to get beyond the status quo of Gibraltar and get over the dispute," Pique told the national news agency Efe Sunday.

But he warned people not to have "great expectations of the meeting. We're sounding out possibilities not presenting formal proposals."

Nevertheless, the meeting comes less than a month after both governments admitted they had been holding low-level talks in recent months and had set a target of December 2002 to try to resolve the dispute over the promontory that oversees the western gateway to the Mediterranean.

Britain took over Gibraltar in 1704 and was ceded sovereignty in the 1713 Treaty of Utrecht. But the Rock, as it is popularly referred to, has since been a persistent thorn in relations with Spain, which hopes to regain the territory. *AP*

Moderate party wins landmark Kosovo poll

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia—The people of Kosovo Monday awaited official election results expected to confirm a victory by moderate Albanian nationalist Ibrahim Rugova, who led a campaign of passive resistance against the regime of former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic.

Exits polls gave Rugova's Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) around 45 percent of the popular vote in Saturday's election for a 120-member parliament in the UN-administered Yugoslav province.

The polls indicated the LDK was far ahead of two other more radical ethnic Albanian parties led by former leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army, the guerrilla force that fought Milosevic's control of the province in the late 1990s.

If the LDK fails to win a majority of seats in the election, which was held under a proportional representation system, it may have to seek one or more coalition partners.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which organized the elections, is to release the first official results at 5 p.m. Monday.

Rugova claimed victory for his party on Sunday, and immediately issued a new call for independence for Kosovo.

But the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), which will remain the ultimate authority in the predominantly ethnic Albanian province, has emphasized that the new assembly will never be allowed to declare independence for Kosovo, a fear of the minority Serb community.

Rugova, 57, is widely tipped to be elected president by the new parliament, which is supposed to meet within 30 days of the election. The president is to nominate a prime minister, who in turn will form a provincial government.

The election was the result of a UN Security Council resolution in June 1999 that authorized "substantial autonomy" for Kosovo, and the deployment of a Nato-led peacekeeping force, KFOR. *AFP*

RUGOVA

'WAY TO GO REUTERS

Linda Damhuis presents this coffin on a Harley Hesselmans motorbike hearse for the Dutch Hesselmans funeral company at the Paris Bourget International trade show for funeral arts, Nov. 18. Over 2000 companies take part in this show.

Expectations of royal baby place Japan's monarchy back in spotlight

TOKYO—They will soon have their first child, but Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako don't get to name their baby or give it its first bath.

The parents' minor roles in a choreography of ancient Shinto rites and court customs, however, belie enormous expectations.

It has been more than eight years since Naruhito wed the former diplomat, and Japan has waited anxiously for an heir to the Chrysanthemum Throne.

Masako, 37, is now expected to give birth by early December, and a boy—women cannot ascend the throne—would put to rest concerns about a succession crisis.

The milestone is a rare chance for the imperial household to take center-stage, a welcome change for a monarchy stripped of most of its political power after World War II—when troops went into battle in the name of the late Emperor Hirohito—and given a much lower profile.

Their duties now center on bestowing cultural awards, throwing banquets for visiting dignitaries and making occasional goodwill appearances. Mostly they keep behind the moats and stone walls of the Imperial Palace. At times, they are still referred to as the "people above the clouds."

The royal baby will change that.

Millions of Japanese are expected to tune in for hours of nonstop coverage. Magazines are already abuzz with speculation over when the baby will be born.

The palace has announced virtually nothing other than to say the baby is expected later this month or early next. One tabloid—quoting anonymous sources—has put the date at Nov. 22.

"A baby is extremely important for the royal family because it keeps them in the news with a new and very cute celebrity," said Kenneth Ruoff, an Oregon State University professor who has written about the emperor in the postwar era.

In 1960, when Naruhito was born to then-Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko, now Japan's emperor and empress, radio broadcasts trumpeted the news, and the dailies made it their front-page story. *AP*

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Bicol region and Eastern Visayas. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 24° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 16°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 19°
Legazpi	Widespread Rains	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Widespread Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/11/20/01

Church continues war on genetic-modified food

ILAGAN, Isabela—The war over genetically modified organism (GMO)-laced crops and coal mining in Isabela is far from over.

Roman Catholic Church leaders led by Bishop Sergio Utleg of the Diocese of Ilagan and priests in 35 towns and two cities in the province renewed their campaign against Bt-corn farming and coal mining.

In a pastoral letter read during last Sunday's Mass in churches in the province, Utleg said Bt-corn farming and coal mining have been denying "the blessings of life for millions of people."

"The church is not against development and modern technology. Rather, we want to ask our people and leaders:

For whom is development? Who is to benefit from these so-called development projects and modern technology?

Development must serve the needs and promote the progress of all people," Utleg said.

Fr. Gregorio Uanan, chancellor of the Diocese of Ilagan and leader of the Anti-GMO Multi-Sectoral Alliance of Isabela, assailed the Monsanto-Philippines for disclosing that Bt-corn has recorded a "high yield" in its field tests in Alinguigan 2nd in Ilagan, Carulay in Echague town, and Villaluna in Cauayan City, all in Isabela.

Monsanto is the leading proponent of Bt-corn field tests in the country.

"Naturally, it has a high yield at first . . . but eventually the corn borer gets immuned, as researches say, and farmers would end up losing income," Uanan told the INQUIRER.

Dr. Arnold Estrada, Monsanto-Philippines product development manager, has reported a "very high yield" in its field trials, a better output than what was recorded in General Santos City.

The tests, Estrada said, were proven to be a success as the firm has confirmed the resistance of Yieldgard corn against Asiatic corn borer and evaluated the corn's economic value and better grain quality.

He said Monsanto would not debate with church leaders.

He maintained, however, that Bt-corn has been proven safe after thorough testing for toxicity, nutritional values and feed values.

"Official studies conducted by the US Department of Agriculture, the US Department of Environment and Protection, and the US Food and Drugs Administration have shown that Bt-corn has no adverse effects on people's health and environment," Estrada said.

Utleg said Bt-corn "does not promote the general welfare of the people nor solve the problem of poverty." "There are credible scientists who tell us that it is toxic and that it can contaminate other corn varieties through cross-pollination," he said.

Estrada, however, said the cross-pollination of Bt-corn plants with ordinary corn does not contaminate the plants.

The Catholic Church has accused Monsanto, a United States-based agricultural company, of trying to impose a monopoly of the corn industry throughout the world.

"The solution to poverty and low productivity is genuine land reform and nationalist industrialization," Utleg said.

He called on legislators to pass a law outlawing Bt-corn field trials. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Fight vs terror part of war games

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—At least 84 soldiers of the United States Army and Air Force based in Okinawa, Japan, arrived here Monday for a month-long exercise called "Vector Balance Piston 01-4."

The exercise includes training on counter-terrorism.

Seventy-five members of the Philippine Army special forces are also participating in the exercise, the fifth approved by the Mutual Defense Board of the United States and the Philippines last year under the Visiting Forces Agreement, the Presidential Commission of the VFA (VFACom) said in a statement sent to reporters here.

The training, to last until Dec. 26, will be held in Clark and Basa air bases, both in Pampanga, and at the Army Camp in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija.

Elmer Cato, VFACom acting executive director, described Balance Piston as a "routine small exercise."

The counter-terrorism course, close quarter combat, as well as sniping and combined airborne operations, are in the exercises' list of joint activities, Army sources told the INQUIRER.

Balance Piston was the first VFA-related exercise that was resumed since the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the US.

Three joint military exercises, one of them large-scale, were cancelled in September following the US military offensives in Afghanistan against suspected terrorist leader Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaida network.

Counter-terrorism training has reportedly been integrated to help the Philippine military in its efforts to crush the Abu Sayyaf, a bandit group based in Basilan and Sulu responsible for a series of kidnap-for-ransom activities.

Intelligence reports said the Abu Sayyaf has strong links with Bin Laden and other international terrorist groups.

Cato declined to comment on the increasing emphasis on counter-terrorism in Balance Piston or succeeding VFA exercises but said "inter-operability of both forces continues to be the agreement's main aim."

The Senate ratified the VFA in 1999 to strengthen defense relations between the US and the Philippines that are bound by the Mutual Defense Treaty.

In Camp Dangwa, Benguet, Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, on Friday said the US is not exerting any pressure on the Philippines to launch a military offensive in Basilan.

He said the AFP expects the Abu Sayyaf to hold fast to American missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham, mainly as leverage.

Three of the Burnhams' fellow Dos Palmas hostages and five others who were abducted separately between June 2 and Oct. 12, were recovered last week.

Villanueva acknowledged that the bandits appeared to have freed their other hostages to concentrate on the leverage presented by the Burnhams.

But he said the 25 US military "coordinators," who visited Mindanao in late October already discovered the "constraints" the AFP faces in its attacks on the Abu Sayyaf.

"The Americans know full well the constraints we have to face. In fact they recognized it when they were (in Mindanao) and visited the area for themselves. But what we are happy about is that they have full understanding of our needs, and they know they can come in with so much help," he said. *Tonette Orejas and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

5 policemen acquitted

SANTIAGO CITY—The Department of Justice ordered the payment of damages to five former policemen who were detained for five years but were acquitted of murder charges. Regional prosecutor Rodolfo Cadelina said former policemen Wilfredo Leano, Ruben Agustin, Ferdinand Marzan, Alexander Micu and Emilio Ramirez should receive P60,000 each for their "wrongful imprisonment." They were released from prison last month after the Supreme Court acquitted them of killing Vicente Bauzon and Elezer Tuliao in 1996. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

3 linemen sued

CAUAYAN CITY—Three linemen of an electric cooperative here were charged with reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide after three residents of Barangay Cabaruan were electrocuted due to their alleged negligence. Charged were William Sison, Rolando Corpuz and Lorenzo Zulueta, all of the Isabela Electric Cooperative-I Branch here. The charges were filed after the death of Rogelio Madriaga, 51, and his nephews John Carlo, 15, and Mark Anthony, 13 who were electrocuted after touching a grounded clothesline. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

20 charged

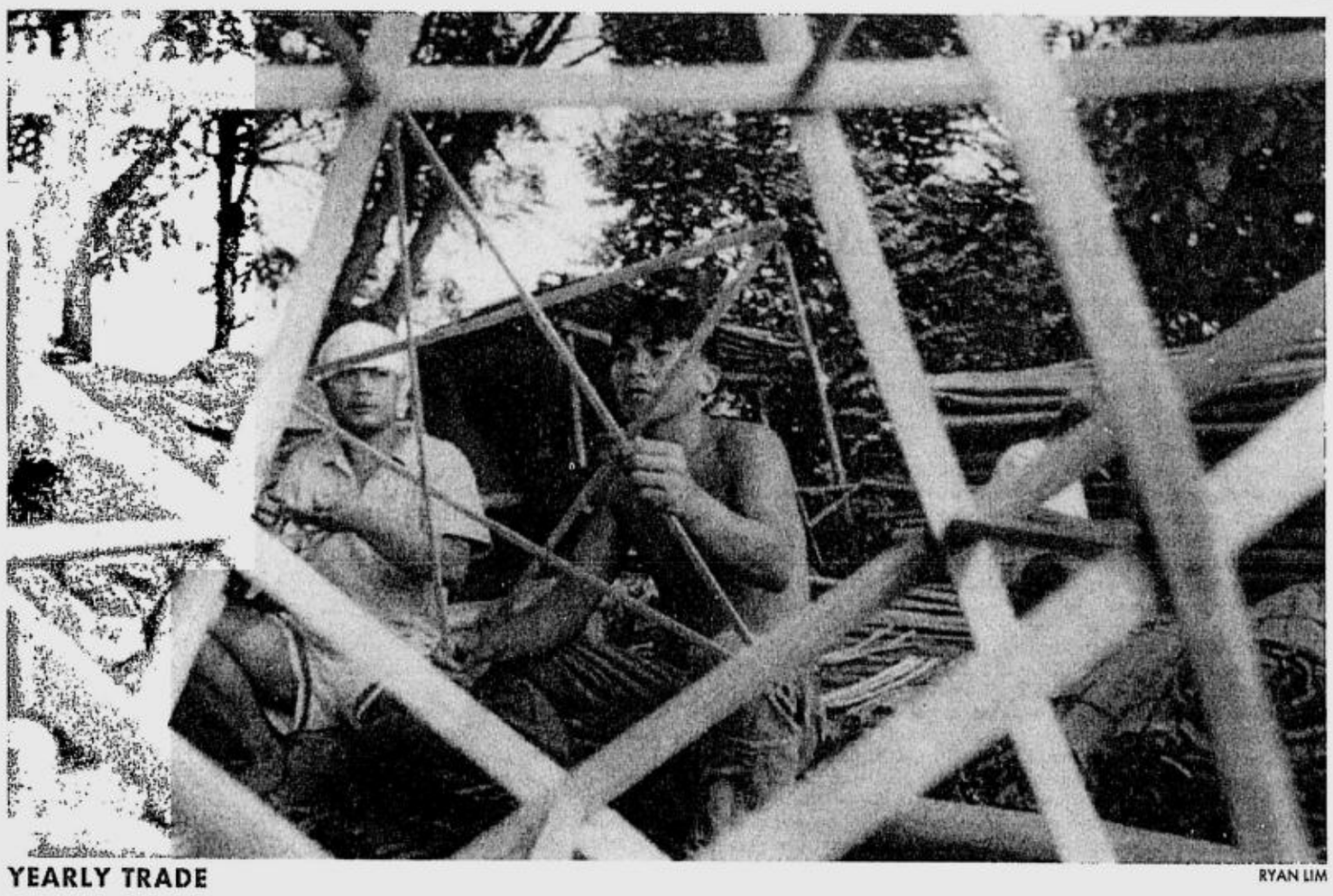
LEGAZPI CITY—Police have filed charges before the San Andres Municipal Trial Court in Catanduanes against 20 suspects in the ambush of the Catanduanes police provincial director and two others early this month. Acting Catanduanes police provincial director Supt. Formoso Argarin said they have filed two counts of attempted murder, direct assault and frustrated murder against the suspects. He said they were withholding the names of the suspects pending their arrest. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

200 families flee

DAVAO CITY—At least 200 families fled after floodwaters, triggered by heavy rains, hit several villages here on Sunday. The disaster office here said water rose to "neck-level" in seven villages including those in Toril District. The other affected barangays were Maharlika-Maa; Green Meadows, Mintal; Sto. Niño, Mintal; Bago Aplaya; San Jose Chapel, and Crossing Puan. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

New Ilocos RDC head

SAN FERNANDO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Pangasinan Gov. Victor Agbayani as chair of the regional development council of the Ilocos. Agbayani replaced former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson. Also appointed as RDC co-chair was lawyer Cecilio Maala, a businessman and incumbent governor of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the Ilocos. *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



YEARLY TRADE RYAN LIM

The holidays bring with them losses and opportunities. Consumers suffer their biggest loss during these days because of increased spending. Workers, like these two men working on *parols* in Davao City, look up to the opportunity of earning more by crafting Christmas decorations.

4 men killed in Bacolod brawl, Cebu gunfight

BY CARLA P. GOMEZ AND KATHY I. NAVARRO
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Four persons were killed while five others were wounded in separate incidents of violence in Bacolod and Cebu cities over the weekend.

In Bacolod, two brothers died while three others were injured in a brawl between two groups arguing over a traffic-related incident in Bakyas, Barangay Mansilingan about 7 p.m. Sunday.

Antonio Sabanal, 38, and his brother, Romeo, 24, of Purok Matahum, Barangay Mansilingan, died of gunshot wounds. Another brother, Nicholas, was also wounded.

Edgar Uytiepo, 52, one of the retained lawyers of businessman Eduardo Cojuangco and the family of the late Ambassador Roberto Benedicto, suffered head and hand injuries allegedly inflicted with the use of a two-and-a-half feet long sword, while his driver Sherwin Taurus, 41, was wounded in the left foot. Both were rushed to the Riverside Medical Center.

Investigators could not determine yet who fired the first shot or who drew the first weapon.

PO2 Hernando Pacino of the city police said the brawl was traced to a vehicular accident near the residence of Uytiepo in Mansilingan involving a public utility jeep driven by Rizalde Sabanal, the youngest brother of the slain and wounded brothers, and the Isuzu Frontier pickup owned by Uytiepo and driven by Taurus.

What followed was a heated exchange of words between Rizalde and Uytiepo.

Supt. Amado Marquez, Bacolod police director, said investigation showed that after the argument, Rizalde went home to call his brothers. When they returned, a traffic policeman was already present and an argument ensued that resulted in a brawl.

In Cebu, a shootout on market day resulted in the death of two men, both supporters of the party list group Promdi, in Barangay Lamac, Pinamungahan town Saturday night.

The fatalities—Samuel Encabo, 40, a barangay councilor, and his supporter, Nemesio Canlum, 44, suffered gunshot wounds in the chest.

Two other persons were injured, including a member of a rival political group and a drunk who was sleeping nearby.

Mario Labra, 45, a supporter of Alayon Party, narrowly escaped death when a bullet grazed his face.

He is identified with town Mayor Jeffrey Yapha, son of third district Rep. Antonio Cuenco, an Alayon stalwart.

A stray bullet hit the leg of farmer Godofredo Anasco, 53, who was reportedly drunk and sleeping on a nearby bench.

Labra, a casual employee in the municipal hall, was allegedly one of the six armed men who fired on Encabo and Canlum.

Encabo, who was also a newspaper dealer, was on his way home from their newsstand in Poblacion when he noticed a commotion at the market place at 6:30 p.m. and stopped to investigate.

A storeowner who asked not to be named said that just as Encabo got down from his motorcycle, he was immediately shot at.

"It happened so fast. When he got down from his motorcycle, shots rang out. It really looked like an ambush because there were men waiting for him. We just closed our store and ducked," he said.

Quake sends Baguio folk into streets

BAGUIO CITY—A mild earthquake sent students and office workers out to the streets here at 3:32 p.m. yesterday, almost eight hours after an Intensity 4 earthquake rattled the Ilocos region.

No damage or casualties were reported in the two tremors.

Reports from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said an Intensity 2.6 earthquake jolted this mountain resort city at 3:32 p.m.

The tremor was tectonic in origin, which was caused by the movement of either a fault or a trench. Its epicenter was traced at six kilometers southwest of La Trinidad, Benguet, or along the Tubao Segment of the Philippine Fault Zone.

Earlier, an Intensity 3.9 quake shook Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur at 7:49 a.m.

It was felt at Intensity 4 in Laoag City and Pasuquin town, both in Ilocos Norte, and at Intensity 3 in Vigan City and the towns of Sta., Bantay, Sta. Maria and Narvacan, all in Ilocos Sur.

The quake's epicenter was traced at 68 kilometers northeast of Laoag City.

Phivolcs officials said no aftershocks are expected in Baguio and Ilocos region.

Baguio suffered an intensity strong earthquake in July 1990.

That quake was measured at Intensity 7.7.

It killed more than 1,000 in Baguio and Nueva Ecija.

Hotels, commercial and office buildings in Baguio, Dagupan City and Nueva Ecija were toppled, burying hundreds underneath them.

The epicenter of that quake was southeast of Rizal, Nueva Ecija.

More than P900 million was spent to repair the roads and bridges that were destroyed by the quake.

Baguio continues to commemorate that tragedy and quakes make residents of the mountain resort edgy. *Gobleth Moulic, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

NPAs storm town, take 4 hostages, execute 2

BY CYNTHIA A. BORGUETA
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Suspected New People's Army rebels raided the town police station and stormed two residences in San Jose de Buan, Western Samar on Saturday and shot dead two of the four hostages they took with them.

Police recovered the bodies of Cecilio Obinguar, father of PO1 Jonathan Obinguar who is assigned to the San Jose de Buan police station, and Alex Padillo, a former member of the Philippine Army, some eight hours after they were taken hostage.

Their bodies were found in a remote village some 10 kilometers from the town proper. San Jose de Buan is about 182 kilometers from Tacloban City.

The hostages who were released were identified as PO2 Nelson Lapiceros and PO1 Artemio Lazarra, both assigned to the town's police station.

The suspected rebels, numbering about 40, raided the town around 5 a.m. Saturday, according to reports reaching the Philippine National Police-Eastern Visayas regional headquarters based in Camp Ruperto Kangleon in Palo, Leyte.

The suspected NPAs first went to the municipal hall where the police station is located and immediately disarmed and took hostage Lapiceros and Lazarra, who were the only officers on duty at the time of the raid.

It was not known, however, how many of the rebels stormed the police station. The same report revealed that while Lapiceros and Lazarra were being taken hostage, another group of heavily armed men went separately to the residences of Obinguar and Padillo and forcibly took them.

Investigators have yet to determine why Obinguar and Padillo were killed. Lapiceros and Lazarra, on the other hand, were released at 1 p.m. of the same day at the town's outskirts.

There were only 10 policemen assigned to man the San Jose de Buan police station, with only two on duty at the time when the rebels stormed the municipal hall.

The suspected rebels, who fled toward different directions at past 1 p.m., took with them three M-16 rifles, a cal. 30 revolver, 6 rifle grenades, 15 short magazines for M-16 rifles and 1,880 rounds of live ammunition for M-16s, the report said.

Some police officers from the Samar provincial police office and members of the Philippine Army based in Catbalogan, Samar conducted joint pursuit operations in the afternoon of Saturday following the raid.

Nur revolts; 51 killed

(From page A1)

tion was under control.

Misuari is not running for reelection after Ms Macapagal endorsed a candidate from another MNLF faction for the top ARMM post.

Reports reaching the military's Southern Command in Zamboanga City indicated that about 300 rebels led by Sulu Gov. Munib Estino first attacked the Army Scout Ranger outpost in Sapak, Indanan.

Three Scout Rangers were killed and several others were wounded when the rebels overran the detachment.

Sources said that at least 17 MNLF guerrillas who had been integrated into the Army rejoined their comrades during the fighting.

Another MNLF group raided the Maimbung police station while other rebels assaulted the Scout Ranger detachment in Talipao.

Counterattack

Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, Army spokesperson, said that the headquarters of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade beside the Jolo airport was attacked by around 200 MNLF fighters.

Residents fleeing the scene said that about 200 MNLF rebels occupied a school outside the camp perimeter, firing mortars and M-79 grenade launchers.

"Forty-eight (men) from the forces of Misuari were killed" when government troops repulsed the attacks, Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said in Zamboanga city.

"We have launched a counterattack on the perimeter," Cimatu told reporters.

He said the bodies of most of the rebels killed were recovered outside the brigade camp. Twenty-seven soldiers and 13 rebels were also wounded in the fighting.

"We saw people running in all directions, people crying, businessmen closing their establishments," ANC reporter David Santos reported from Jolo.

Residents said local officials had sent out appeals for blood. One of the shells landed in the kitchen of a monastery of Catholic nuns but no one was hurt, residents said.

As the attack on Jolo took place, more than 100 MNLF rebels massed on a hilltop overlooking Zamboanga City, forcing the military to set up checkpoints in strategic parts of the port.

Residents said the rebels occupied the Lupong Tagapagpaganap ng Pook complex in Barangay Cabatangan, about 5 km from Zamboanga City.

Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat suspended classes in the elementary and high school levels.

A sizeable number of MNLF rebels were also sighted massing in Pagadian City and Davao del Sur.

"Our forces are prepared for any eventuality," Army Col. Danilo Servando said. "This is all the handiwork of Misuari for his personal vested interests."

Major problem

The fighting is likely to lead to a major security problem for the Macapagal administration, which is trying to win back investor confidence shaken by tourist kidnappings and political turmoil.

"This could be a move to embarrass the President while she is in the United States, to project an image that she's not in control or the AFP is not in control," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao told reporters by telephone from Washington.

Even so, Tiglao said the President saw "no need" to cut short her trip.

Asked what action the government was planning against Misuari, Tiglao said: "Regarding Misuari we have to verify the information, first, if he really led the attacks, and secondly, get information from him."

However, Misuari could not be located, he added. "If we verified that it's really him, we would have to get a policy clearance from the President.

Tiglao said it was up to the Comelec to decide whether to go ahead or cancel the Nov. 26 elections.

Tiglao said the attacks "might be intended to create a situation or a perception that elections can't be undertaken."

Ms Macapagal is scheduled to hold talks with US President George W. Bush in Washington on Tuesday to seek US military aid in her government's war against the Abu Sayyaf bandits who have been linked to Osama bin Laden.

The military on Monday accused Misuari of colluding with the Abu Sayyaf in his revolt.

Army spokesperson Mabanta said reports of the Misuari-Abu Sayyaf links surfaced several days ago, giving the military enough time to build up a "very good defensive position."

He said four Army battalions, or about 2,000 men, were now ranged against about 400 MNLF fighters.

Provoked

The military said Misuari's impending removal as governor of ARMM, a patchwork of five provinces and a city comprising the most impoverished areas in Mindanao, had provoked his power play.

The MNLF also split into two factions earlier this year, and Ms Macapagal decided to back Farouk Hussin, leader of the anti-Misuari faction, for the top ARMM post.

Misuari was elected ARMM governor on Sept. 9, 1996, a week after the MNLF signed a peace treaty under which it settled for limited autonomy and discarded its aim of setting up an Islamic state in Mindanao.

His rule was undistinguished by most accounts, with more than half the ARMM population living below the poverty threshold five years later.

In August, just one province and a city in the South elected to join the ARMM in a plebiscite to expand its territory.

"Records of his performance show that . . . he failed as a leader and as an executive," Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin wrote earlier this month as Misuari began rattling sabers in public.

Salapuddin, a deputy speaker of the House of Representatives and Misuari's comrade in arms in the MNLF, said: "We looked at him as the epitome of hope for the Bangsamoro (Filipino Muslim nation), a redeemer and champion of our cause. But we were wrong."

Didn't disarm

After the peace agreement was forged in 1996, half the MNLF joined the military and the police, but the other half did not disarm, according to Eduardo Ermita, a presidential adviser on military affairs.

The former rebels set up their own enclaves in at least five areas of the South including Jolo, complicating government efforts to fight other rebel groups as well as cattle rustlers, kidnappers and gunrunners.

"You just don't know who is A, B or C," Ermita said.

Earlier this year the authorities raided Misuari's home in Zamboanga City and seized a cache of weapons, which the military alleged was being sold to the Abu Sayyaf. No charges were filed against him.

The government has not said what it planned to do with Misuari, but a senior military official said: "Misuari has just signed his death certificate." *Reports from Noralyn Mustafa, Alexander M. Young, Julie Alipala-Inot, Edwin O. Fernandez, Allan Nawal, Joselle D.R. Badilla, Hernan dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Martin P. Marfil, Dona Z. Pazzibugan in Manila; and AP, AFP and Reuters*

100,000 MRT, LRT . . .

(From page A1)

A second launching ceremony was held a few minutes later at the MRT Taft Station on Edsa.

INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot lauded the MRT and the Department of Transportation and Communication for giving passengers "the gift of time" by allowing them to travel fast in routes covered by the elevated railway systems.

"It is INQUIRER Libre's aim to provide its readers with more information; information that will make Filipinos more productive and better citizens of this country. More and more, time is becoming man's scarcest and most valuable resource. We are giving you INQUIRER Libre to help commuters make the best use of their time," Yambot said at the second launch.

The INQUIRER management said it specifically chose the MRT and LRT stations with heavy human traffic during the rush hours as distribution sites for INQUIRER Libre.

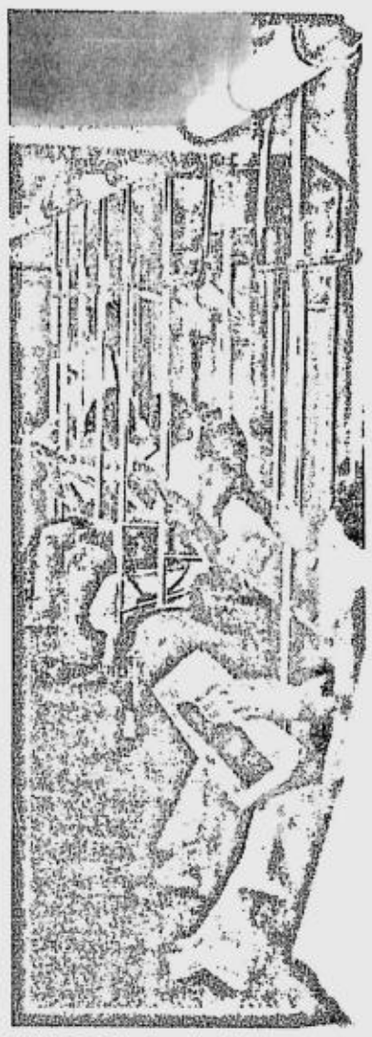
As early as 5:30 a.m., copies were handed out at the Monumento station of the LRT. The early southbound trains saw twin rows of reading commuters, their noses buried in the first copies of the new tabloid.

Many of them said they could not yet decide whether or not they like INQUIRER Libre.

"But since it's free, that's something. At least I can read the news free every morning," said one male passenger on his way out of the Baclaran station.

Others were unbelieving when told that the tabloid was not for sale. Some of them refused the copies being handed out but changed their mind when the newsboys said INQUIRER Libre is well, "*libre*."

MRT stations carrying INQUIRER Libre include the northbound lanes of Taft, Magallanes, Guadalupe, Boni Avenue and Shaw Boulevard; and the southbound lanes of Shaw Boulevard, Cubao, GMA-Kamuning, Quezon Avenue and North Edsa.



IT'S READ, Inquirer Libre in the hands of MRT commuters after its launching on Monday.

LRT commuters can get their copies in the southbound stations of Monumento, 5th Avenue, Abad Santos, Blumentritt, Tayuman and Carriedo; and in the northbound stations of Pedro Gil, Gil Puyat, Libertad and Baclaran.

GMA visit: . . .

(From page A1)

gushed, "I've never seen so many Filipinos come out for an event. We are all united in prayers in this difficult time."

Mabuhay

Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington and principal celebrant, set the tone during the early evening Mass.

"It is a special honor and privilege to welcome President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband," he said before delivering the homily. At the opening of the Mass he said, "I guess I should begin by saying Mabuhay!"

Saying that the Philippines is the Catholic center in Asia, he also paid tribute to "the devotion of the wonderful Filipino people" who are loved by Pope John Paul II.

The sun came out, too, adding to the wonderful autumn day with a Baguio-like weather. When the President began her official schedule yesterday Monday, it was T-shirt weather at 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

After the Mass, Filipinos swarmed around the President, thrilled to shake her hand. One woman with a camera shouted, "God bless you, Gloria" several times as she tried to catch her attention.

Wearing a dark suit with an emerald green scarf wrapped around her collar, Ms Macapagal smiled, shook hands and, at times, stopped to chat. Her 7:45 p.m. to 8 p.m. remarks were interrupted six times by applause from the friendly crowd.

Prolonged applause

She got short bursts of applause when she talked about the six measures taken by her administration in support of the US anti-terrorism coalition.

The loudest, prolonged applause came when she said she would talk to President Bush about "the plight of the Filipino World War II veterans."

The President arrived promptly at 5 p.m., heralded by sirens and an entourage consisting of a tourist bus and vans filled with her top officials and their spouses, staff and the media.

Filipino-American TV 58 owner Lito Serrano videotaped the Mass with the President. He said he was happy to record history-in-the-making.

Prayer

The community had heartwarming messages for the President.

Emelina Camp: "I'm praying for her and her success, because her success means the success of the Filipino people. I'm the vice president of Ina Poonbato Foundation and head of the Household of St. Joseph. We hold Masses regularly at the conference hall in my place in Annandale, Virginia. At least 20 people usually come for these services. I would like to offer the Household of St. Joseph as a networking vehicle for the President's projects in the area."

Francisca Pamintuan Ragaza, 89, and mother of Mrs. Camp: "I knew the President's father because we were townmates. He even chose me as his sponsor when he was a cadet at Pampanga High School. I used to see President Gloria Arroyo when I would visit her father in Malacañang. In the last presidential elections, I could not vote for her for vice president because I'm now a US citizen. But I campaigned for her among my friends. I always include her in my daily prayers."

Messages

Lito Urgino, director for evangelization and mission for Couples for Christ USA: "The President asked the over 1,000 Fil-American organizations in the US to adopt a Philippine school or non-governmental organization (NGO). We've been adopting *barangays* for years now. We have seven or eight *barangays* all over the Philippines. Our chapters in 29 states in the US adopted 100 children each in the Philippines. We help in spiritual and material ways."

Beth Wong, chair for Maryland of the National Federation of Filipino Associations (NaFFAA): "I want to tell her, keep up the good work. I also want to appeal to her to urge parents to become advocates for crucial issues like education. Specifically, funding for public schools. The youth are future citizens, we should make sure they have good education."

Antonio H. David, president of the World Bank Group-International Monetary Fund Filipino Association: "She's doing the right thing and we support her. Even Sen. Aquilino Pimentel who was a recent guest in our forum here said 'he would work with the administration' on programs for the Filipino people.

No protest from OFWs

Even organizations known to hold protest rallies when Philippine presidents come to visit the US support the President.

Lawyer Arnedo Valera, national spokesperson of Diwa (*Diwang Iisa sa Wastong Adhikain*) told the INQUIRER days before the visit: "We condemn the terrorist attacks and express concern that the President's all-out support to the US could be a magnet of attack to the Filipinos back home. But I want to make clear, we support her and the Philippines' role in the global anti-terrorism coalition."

He added: "I would just hope that she would take this opportunity to ask President Bush to grant debt forgiveness to the external debts of the Philippines, a whopping $52 billion. I also urge her to help our overseas Filipino workers by cutting down on the bureaucracy, and by protecting them from excessive fees."

RP, US crafting logistics pact –Guingona

(From page A1)

At yesterday's press briefing, Guingona said negotiations were still ongoing.

"There are still changes that may come along the way," he said. He deflected more questions about the proposed MLSA by passing the ball to the President and her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

"It would be best to just wait for the President and the Presidential spokesperson to address the issue when they come back," he said.

Guingona also declined to specify the substance of the DFA's comments to improve the proposed military agreement.

James Kelley, US assistant secretary of state for Asia-Pacific affairs, earlier confirmed that Philippine and US defense officials had been working on an MLSA for some time. But Kelly denied that the MLSA would allow US forces to use Clark and the former Subic Naval Base as permanent bases.

He said Washington was quite happy with the existing Visiting Forces Agreement and was "not pressing for more."

War games

In Clark, the US troops joined some 75 members of the Philippine Army's Special Forces for a monthlong exercise called "Vector Balance Piston 01-4."

The war games, which include training in counterterrorism, is the fifth approved by the RP-US Mutual Defense Board last year under the VFA, the Presidential Commission of the VFA (VFACom) said in a press statement.

The training, to last until Dec. 26, will be held in Clark and at the Basa Air Bases, both in Pampanga, and at the Army's Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija. Elmer Cato, VFACom acting executive director, described Balance Piston as a "routine small exercise."

The counterterrorism course, close-quarters combat, as well as sniping and combined airborne operations, are in the exercises' list of joint activities, Army sources told the INQUIRER.

Balance Piston is the first VFA-related exercise since the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

Three joint military exercises, one of which was large-scale, were canceled in September following the US military offensives in Afghanistan against suspected terrorist leader Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network.

Counterterrorism training has reportedly been integrated to help the Philippine military in its efforts to crush the Abu Sayyaf.

Cato declined to comment on the increasing emphasis on counterterrorism in Balance Piston or succeeding VFA exercises but said "inter-operability of both forces continues to be the agreement's main aim."

Anti-bases

When Guingona was in the Senate, he voted against the extension of the US Bases treaty in 1991 and against the VFA in 1999.

Yesterday, he denied that the negotiations over the MLSA were inconsistent with his previous opposition. "My stand is consistent. My stand (on these issues) has not changed. If there would be any treaty between the two countries, this should be legal, and in accordance with the Constitution and in accordance with the existing treaties," Guingona said.

Talks of a "secret pact" being hastened for the signatures of Ms Macapagal and US President George W. Bush when they meet Tuesday (Washington time) surfaced last week when unnamed sources at the DFA told reporters that a new agreement, with striking similarities to the Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement, was in the works.

Sources at the DFA, however, claimed that the proposed MLSA was simply a renamed version of the controversial Acsa that had been under negotiation since November 1992 but was never signed because of strong opposition in the Senate.

The same Senate rejected the renewal of the RP-US Military Bases Agreement on Sept. 16, 1991, thereby forcing the withdrawal of the US military from its bases.

The other day, former Sen. Wigberto Tañada demanded that the draft of the proposed MLSA be made public.

"They cannot keep this from the public. While they (the government) may be already discussing it, it is their obligation to let the public know about the MLSA," Tañada said in a phone interview.

He noted that like the aborted Acsa, the new defense proposal was only confirmed after "secret negotiations."

The MLSA, if approved, would negate the Senate's 1991 rejection of the bases agreement, he said.

The treaty was adopted in 1951 to meet post-war threats like the expanding Soviet Union. It provides for the Philippines and the United States to come to each other's defense in case of armed attack upon the territory or Armed Forces of either in the Pacific region.

After the pullout of its forces in 1991, the United States concluded a Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) with the Philippines in 1999. The VFA allowed for the temporary visit of US troops for joint military exercises.

The Constitution bans foreign military troops and nuclear weapons in the country.

Afghans crowd theaters, video shops

(From page 1A)

someone to leave because there was no more room in the shop.

Inside the theater, about a hundred people stood shoulder-to-shoulder. They were watching an Indian action film playing on an aging television's snowy screen, the shaky tracking moving the images up and down.

The collapse of Taliban rule in Kabul means it's movie time again.

"We've been sad for six years," said 17-year-old Ahmed Jawed, who was among those in line.

"We're starting to enjoy things again."

The Taliban had banned most entertainment, including movies, TV and music, saying it was against Islam. Since the militia abandoned Kabul last week, drums, guitars and high-pitched singing could be heard pouring out of tinny radios on busy streets and even outside mosques.

'Gladiator,' 'Rush Hour'

And people are dusting off their television sets—kept surreptitiously under the Taliban—and heading to a new video rental store that opened this week in the capital.

Its offerings include "Gladiator," "Police Story," "Rush Hour" and "Independence Day."

One video cover features robust women in various embraces behind the title "Ladies Wretling," with the letter "s" missing.

Many of the videos are from India's film industry, Bollywood, including "Ajnabee" and "Ek Rishtaa" starring Amitabh Bachchan:

"Business is good and getting better every day," said the store's owner, Abdullah, who charges the equivalent of 50 cents for a day's rental. Like many Afghans, he uses only one name.

Most Afghans barely have enough money for food, let alone movies, so there are fewer patrons in Abdullah's store than in the handful of small movie rooms that opened in the past week that charged 10 cents.

Still for men only

Afghan men in turbans and skull caps on Sunday crammed into the mini-theaters where even the standing room was shoulder-to-shoulder.

But the flouting of Taliban rules only goes so far: There were no women in the theaters.

The men's laughter and chatter was louder than the volume on the small television set. But in a city where until this week watching movies meant jail or whipping, just being there was a welcome respite.

"Let them open the cinemas again!" declared Mohebullah, a 32-year-old driver, referring to the dozen or more movie houses that existed in Kabul before the Taliban took power in 1996.

Even during Taliban rule, many Kabul residents continued to watch TV, but they had to close their curtains, turn down the volume and hope the religious police stayed away.

The Taliban often confiscated or destroyed TV sets, and people caught watching were jailed for a week or two. One time the militia's Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice staged a public burning of video cassettes outside Kabul's stadium.

Najibullah, an accountant at the foreign ministry, said that for the past six years he had been tucking his satellite dish away during the day, and placing it in a courtyard at night.

"Now I will put it on the roof," he said. *AP*

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SC rules 10-4-1 plunder law constitutional

(From page A1)

Estrada, who had earlier in the day expressed confidence that the high tribunal would declare Republic Act 7080 unconstitutional, could not be reached for comment last night; his secretary said he was conferring with his lawyers. But one of his political lieutenants, Atty. Jesus Crispin Remulla, said that "if it's true, then we really have a politicized judiciary. It's a sad day for Philippine jurisprudence."

In Washington, DC, where she is currently on a working visit, President Macapagal-Arroyo offered a sober reaction. "This is directly between the Supreme Court and the Ombudsman. My job in the Executive is to make sure that the rule of law prevails.

Those who voted to uphold the law were Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Associate Justices Josue Bellosillo (who penned the decision), Jose Melo, Reynato Puno, Jose Vitug, Vicente Mendoza, Artemio Panganiban, Leonardo Quisumbing, Arturo Buena and Sabino De Leon Jr.

Those who voted against were Associate Justices Santiago Kapunan, Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Bernardo Pardo and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez. The latter three were among the five incumber justices appointed to the Supreme Court by Estrada.

Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, Macapagal's first appointee, did not take part in the deliberations since he was one of those who filed the plunder case against the deposed President.

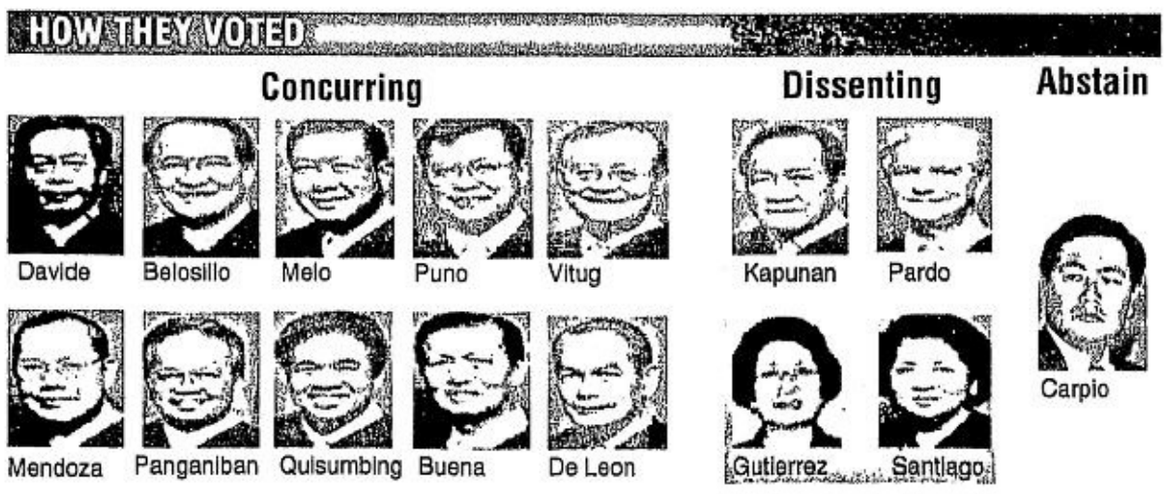
Pardo issued a two-page dissenting opinion, arguing that the court should not yet rule on the constitutionality of the law. Since he believed the Information filed against Estrada et al. was "defective," he said government prosecutors should first correct it before the SC settled the issue.

Not vague

Estrada's petition had challenged the constitutionality of the plunder law, arguing that some of its provisions were vague.

But Deputy Court Administrator and SC spokesperson Ismael Khan said the court found that the law was not vague as Estrada claimed, and did not violate his right to due process.

"The Supreme Court said the plunder law is constitutional," Khan announced over radio. "The 10 (justices) said the law was constitutional. No question about it."



The ruling renders all other petitions and motions for status quo filed by Estrada's lawyers moot. "The Sandiganbayan can go ahead with the trial," he told reporters.

"Also, the law did not lower the quantum of evidence required for the conviction of the accused. The law still requires that there should be proof beyond reasonable doubt before one is convicted of plunder."

Wrong info

According to a member of Estrada's publicity team, the former President had initially been given the wrong information that the court had ruled in his favor. The media officer, who requested anonymity, said Estrada was even in high spirits and "full of life" when he returned from his Sandiganbayan hearing to the Veterans Memorial Hospital where he is detained.

"I myself was shocked (when I learned of the real vote) that I don't know if I myself could have relayed the bad news to him," the media officer told the INQUIRER.

Another member of Estrada's media team told the INQUIRER he had talked with the former President, who had told him, "I leave it all up to my lawyers." He said Estrada looked crestfallen.

One of Estrada's lawyers, Raymund Fortun, said they would first have to secure a copy of the Supreme Court decision before plotting their next move. The ruling, he said, can contain portions that may serve as "sufficient ground for reconsideration."

Remulla, spokesperson for Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino, initially declined to comment, but later lamented what he called "a politicized judiciary."

In Washington, DC, Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao welcomed the news. "The President respects the Supreme Court decision and she had been confident that the plunder law passed by legislators conformed with the Constitution," he said.

Major victory

Jubilant anti-Estrada groups hailed the Supreme Court and urged government prosecutors to ensure the deposed President's conviction.

"We praise the Supreme Court for standing by the side of truth and the law," said Sammy Malunes, spokesperson of the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno labor group. "It did not succumb to the pressures of Estrada."

Dr. Carol Araullo, convenor of Plunder Watch, described the ruling as a "major victory" for the prosecution, but warned the public to remain vigilant against possible moves by the Estrada camp to derail the proceedings "through other political means."

"Now that the Supreme Court has made the ruling, the ball is now in the hands of the government prosecutors. The trial must proceed without delays," Araullo said, while warning of violent reactions from Estrada loyalists.

Plunder Watch said the Estrada camp might agitate the disgraced presidents' supporters to launch a mass action similar to the bloody Labor Day assault on Malacañang.

Leonardo de Vera of the Equal Justice for All Movement credited the Supreme Court ruling partly to the campaign by cause-oriented groups, led by Plunder Watch, against the rumored 8-6 vote favoring Estrada's petition to declare the plunder law unconstitutional.

"We are very, very happy. Truth has prevailed and it's now time to concentrate on the trial."

Dante Jimenez, whose group Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption filed the first plunder case against Estrada, urged the Sandiganbayan Third Division not to treat Estrada and his son Jinggoy with kid gloves and "send them to a real jail, not in hospital jails."

En banc

The high court resolved the issue after a day-long special en banc session, which started at 9 a.m.

Bellosillo, the *ponente*, said that in resolving Estrada's petition, the SC did not dwell on the issue of whether Estrada has the right to post bail.

"It's up to the Sandiganbayan. But plunder is non-bailable," Bellosillo added.

In the 33-page decision, the full court said: "Our nation has been racked by scandals of corruption and obscene profligacy of officials in high places which have shaken its very foundation."

But in resolving the divisive issue, it said: "these are the times that try men's soul. In the checkered history of this nation, few issues of national importance can equal the amount of interest and passion generated by petitioner's ignominious fall from the highest office, and his eventual prosecution and trial under a virginal statute.

"This continuing saga has driven a wedge of dissention among our people that may linger for a long time. Only by responding to the clarion call for patriotism, to rise above factionalism and prejudices, shall we emerge triumphant in the midst of ferment," the court said.

LONE obstacle to his trial for plunder is now dismantled by the Supreme Court ruling. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

The SC said Estrada, the highest ranking official to be prosecuted under RA 7080, as amended by RA 7659, "wishes to impress upon us that the assailed law is so defectively fashioned that it crosses that thin but distinct line which divides the valid from this constitutionally firm."

The high court said Estrada claimed in his Sept. 18 petition that the law "suffers from the vice of vagueness," it "dispenses with the reasonable doubt standard" and therefore violates his rights to due process , and "whether plunder as defined in RA 7080 is a malum prohibitum, and if so, among whether it is within the power of Congress to so classify."

However, the SC said Estrada had "miserably failed" to discharge his burden and overcome the presumption of constitutionality of the plunder law.

"As it is written, the plunder law contains ascertainable standards and well-defined parameters which would enable the accused to determine the nature of his violation," the high court stressed.

The SC also commended the prosecution panel, which is headed by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, for filing an amended Information which "itself closely tracks the language of the law, indicating with reasonable certainty the various elements of the offense which petitioner is alleged to have committed."

"We discern nothing in the foregoing that is vague or ambiguous—as there is obviously none—that will confuse petitioner in his defense," the SC said.

Earlier statements

Earlier in the day, Estrada had reacted to the INQUIRER story about rival groups exerting pressure on the Supreme Court by expressing confidence that the tribunal would rule in his favor.

"As far as I am concerned, based on the transcripts of arguments by the lawyers, we are all very impressed that they were able to prove the plunder law is vague," Estrada said.

He also denied using pressure tactics.

"There is no pressure (from) our side, whatsoever," he said.

He lambasted his critics who allege he is buying off certain Supreme Court justices. "They are insulting the justices for insinuating that they can be bribed," he told reporters covering his plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan.

He also dismissed the alleged P500-million "dirty money" fund as another product of his critics' "fertile imagination."

Ms Macapagal, through her spokesperson, also said she did not apply pressure on any Supreme Court justice to vote in favor of the constitutionality of the plunder law. Tiglao said Ms Macapagal and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo "will never interfere in the decision of the Supreme Court on any case."

"That's absolutely a no-no, for the administration to interfere with any branches of government," added Tiglao in a statement.

Reacting to another newspaper report that the First Couple summoned a provincial governor to Malacañang last month to ask him to intercede on their behalf before a high court justice who happened to be a relative, Tiglao said the report was "obviously" referring to Rizal Gov. Casimiro "Ito" Ynares, brother of SC Associate Justice Consuelo-Ynares Santiago.

He dismissed the allegation as "totally and completely baseless."

Asked how he would resume his normal life if he is able to post bail, he said, "I will start writing my memoirs with the help of a professional writer." *With reports from Volt Contreras, Christian Esguerra, Dona Pazzibugan, AFP; and Juan Sarmiento Jr. in Washington, DC.*

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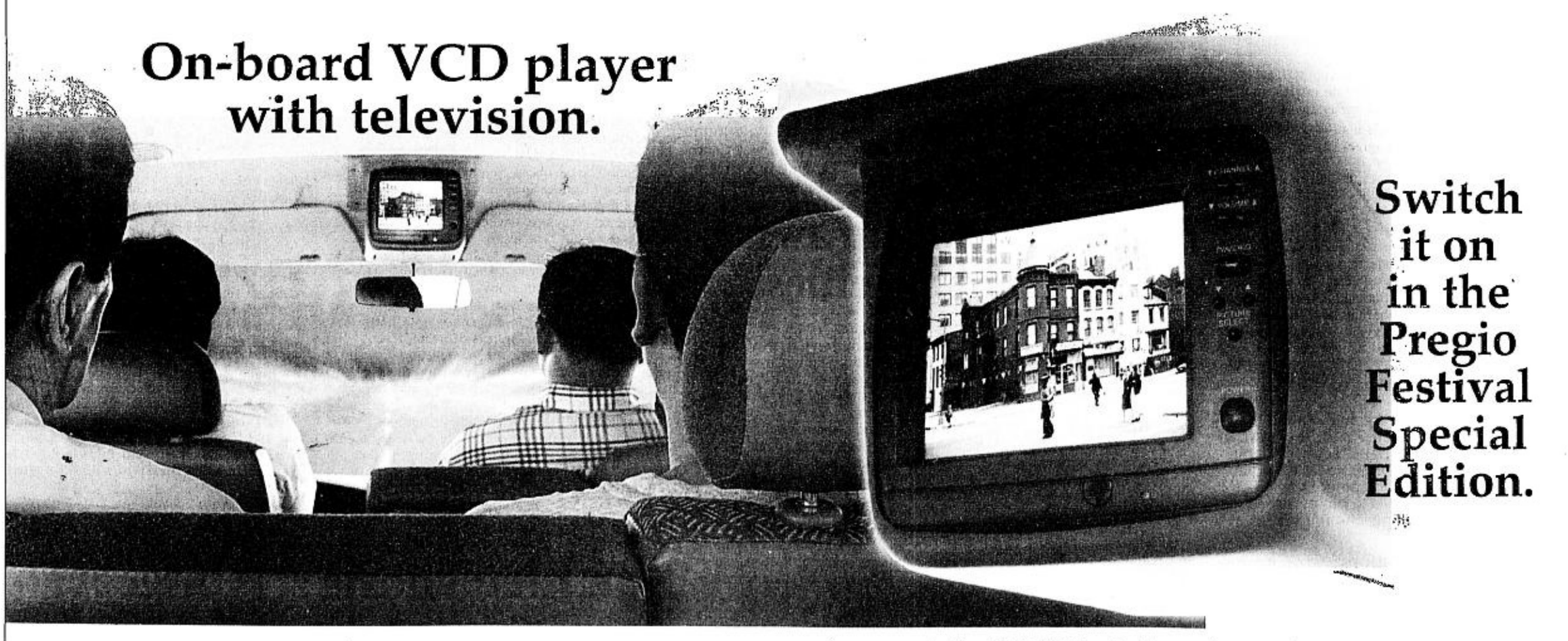

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Go lashes at POC; vicious cycle, says Ribaño

GO TENG KOK

RIBAÑO

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

PHILIPPINE Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok yesterday lashed at what he termed a "mafia" within the Philippine Olympic Committee, accusing the group of manipulating the affairs of the POC in favor of some "annointed" national sports associations.

Finally breaking his silence on the POC affair, Go said at least 16 NSA presidents agree that there is a "mafia" in the POC, composed of some "small, nonperforming NSAs." The group is supposedly close to POC president Celso Dayrit and is prejudiced against those who are close to the athletics chief.

Go ran against Dayrit during the 1998 POC elections.

The Patafa chief said POC secretary general Romy Ribaño of squash, Rufino Go of table tennis, Claudio Altura of yachting, Steve Hontiveros of bowling and former basketball head Freddie Jalasco are among those included in the clique. They compose the POC executive council.

But Ribaño denied the accusation, saying he is only performing his task.

"As secretary general, it is my duty to prepare and sign communications based on what the POC board has decided," he said.

"Jalasco doesn't even have an NSA to represent," said Go of the former basketball chief who was replaced by Tiny Literal during a 10-month internal rift in the association. "Why is he still attending the POC board? This is unfair to everybody who is not close to the group."

Go said the POC refused to act on the internal squabbles in weightlifting, cycling and karatedo because the NSA heads, whose leadership is being questioned, happened to be close to the "mafia."

However, Ribaño claimed that the POC already looked into the concerned NSAs but each time they upheld a contending party, the other would protest.

"It's becoming to be a vicious cycle," he said.

The POC secretary general said cycling has already been settled with Ponciano Regalado as president and Ramonito Durano III as chair, while Eduardo Ponce is named president of karatedo in place of Pocholo Veguillas.

Ribaño said the POC refused to recognize Jaime Sebastian as weightlifting head because ousted leader Rodolfo Sicat lodged some questions.

"Regalado is their ally, Veguillas and Sebastian are not, that's how easily they decide on POC matters," claimed Go, who also questioned the capability of Altura as POC arbitration chief.

Go said Ribaño is "only using his position to see the globe" and that the POC secretary general went abroad 14 times in the last two years.

Ribaño said he hopes all the issues will be settled when the POC general assembly convenes on Nov. 28.

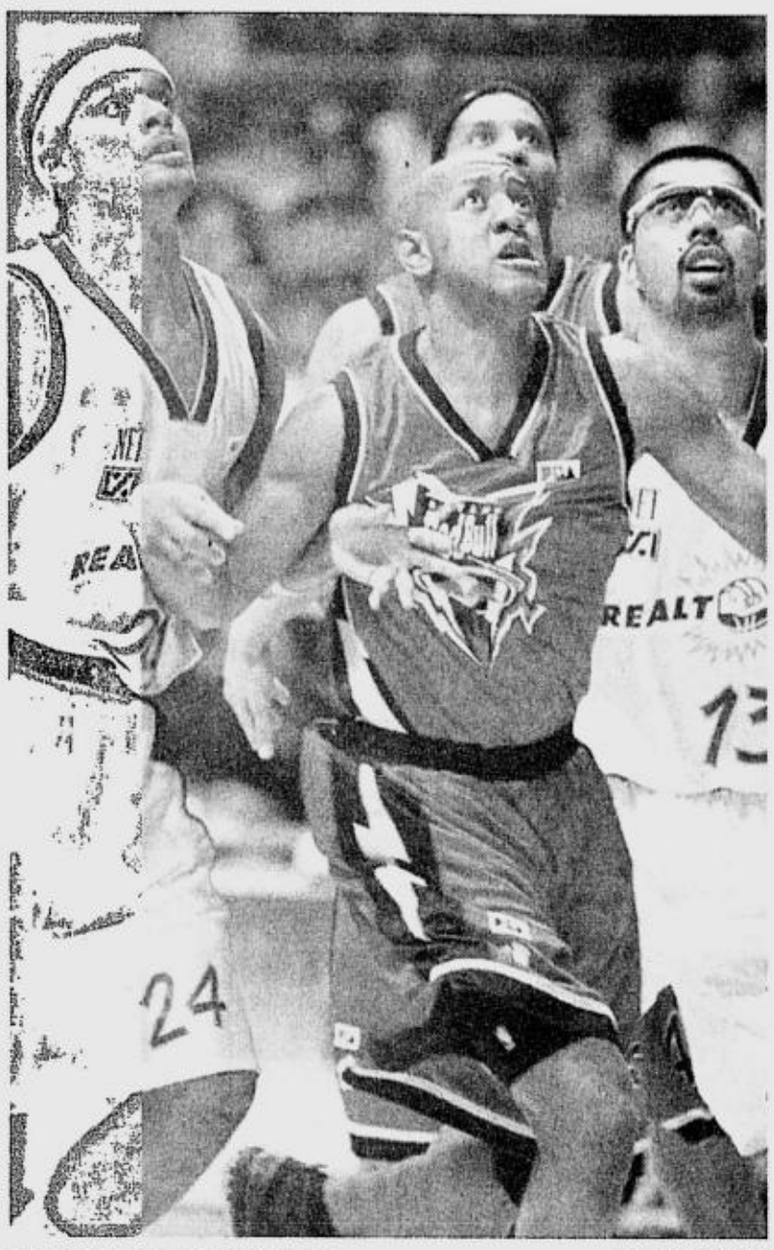
Dimabogte beats Bibal

LEGAZPI—Ywijkev Dimabogte outlasted Joan Bibal, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, to bag the girls' 16-under division title at the close of the 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop here at the Camp Ola Tennis Club.

Dimabogte became a double champion following a 5-7, 6-0, 6-2 victory over Sairey Ann Ocfemia in the girls' 14-under bracket and shared the limelight with Raj Dycoco in the unisex 10-under, Kevin Moran in the boys' 12-under, Jojo Liao in the boys' 14-under, Jerico Bigornia in the boys' 16-under, Angelo Rabina in the boys' 18-under, Catherine Ortega in the girls' 12-under and Cheryl Macasera in the girls' 18-under divisions.

On hand to award the prizes in the Milo netfest organized by the CTW and supported by Adidas and Sports Kids were project directors Tony Reyes and Chino Arcangel.

Spring shocks Shin Dong Pa's 5



PLAYER OF THE WEEK ROMY HOMILLADA

Damien Owens of Sta. Lucia Realty (left) jockeys for position against Batang Red Bull's Ray Tutt and teammate Marlou Aquino during Sunday's PBA game. Owens scored 32 points, made 14 rebounds and issued five assists to lift the Realtors to a 97-93 victory that put them into the semifinals and made him the best player of the week.

GAMES TODAY
2 p.m.—Cebu-Lhuillier vs Spring Cooking Oil
4 p.m.—San Sebastian College vs Korea Sangmu
6 p.m.—RP Young Men vs University of the East

VETERAN Bobby Parks scored 36 points and stood out on defense as Spring Cooking Oil shocked Korea's Sangmu, 109-102, yesterday in the opener of the National Open Basketball Championship at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Parks, a seven-time former PBA best import, also clustered eight points to shatter the game's last deadlock at 99 and disappoint the Koreans, who took runner-up honors in the 24th William Jones Cup in Taipei recently.

Joel Co, who played for Socsargen-Taguig in the MBA, and 6-foot-4 Hamzah Yahya supported Parks as they broke through the Koreans' defenses.

The victory boosted the spirit of the Tac Padilla-owned Spring Cooking Oil and coach Tito Palma hopes it will inspire his wards in their game against Cebu Lhuillier today.

Hamzah wound up with 19 points while Co contributed 17.

The Koreans of cage legend Shin Dong Pa try to bounce back against San Sebastian College at 4 p.m. today.

Sin Kyi Sung scored 17 points, including five triples, but was ineffective in the second half as Parks guarded him tightly. *Roy Luarca*

Scores:

SPRING 109—Parks 36, Hamzah 19, Co 17, Manuel 11, De Castro 7, Buendia 6, Espiritu 6, Reyes 5, Lambert 2, Ricafuente 0.

KOREA SANGMU 102—Sin KS 17, Gil 12, Gang 10, Bae GT 9, San 9, Nam 8, Yoo 7, Byun 7, Pyo 6, Hyun 6, Park 5, Chole 4, Jung 2.

Halftime: 53-45.

Barotac takes Iloilo football

BAROTAC NUEVO—After seven years, former national champion Barotac Nuevo National Comprehensive High bounced back into the limelight by crushing arch rival St. Paul School, also of Barotac Nuevo, 5-0, to win the Iloilo Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football title Wednesday at the local field.

Ruben Doctora starred for the BNNCHS booters in the match which drew an overflow crowd as he knocked the first two goals—in the fifth and 40th minutes.

Meliton Pelayo, Johanne Pietro Sablon and Ricardo Becite III completed the rout by scoring in the 43rd, 80th and 87th minutes, respectively.

St. Paul, the national champion in 1998, never got the chance to get back into the game after Doctora gave BNNCHS that blazing start.

With the victory, the BNNCHS boys automatically make to the national finals which will be hosted by Iloilo City next year.

The winner of the all-Visayas competition will join Barotac Nuevo National Comprehensive High together with the champion and runners-up of the Visayas and Mindanao finals in the national event.

The Iloilo tourney was staged by the Iloilo Football Association and sponsored by Coca-Cola.

IFA president Titus Perez, Barotac Nuevo Football Club president Reuben Belandres and Vice Mayor Antonio Belluga presented the prizes to the winning teams and top individual performers.

'Sail Around Taal Regatta' Nov. 24

MORE than 20 Hobie 16 sailors are expected to see action in the second Sail Around Taal Regatta set for Nov. 24-25 around the world famous Taal Lake in Batangas.

The event, which is aimed at promoting Taal as a tourist spot as well as drumming up interest in the sport of sailing, will be a 50-kilometer, two-leg event that will pass through the towns of Laurel and Mataas na Kahoy.

Participants will come from the Philippine Sailing Association, the Manila Yacht Club and foreign sailors from the Hong Kong Yacht Club and the Hong Kong Hobie Club.

Aside from the Hobie races, there will also be windsurfing competitions with participants Caliraya and the Anilao Windsurfing fleets clashing against each other.

Organizing committee head Peter Capotosto said there are plans to stage the Batangas-Puerto Galera-Batangas Hobie regatta and the Philippine Hobie Challenge from Vigan, Ilocos Sur to Subic Bay next year.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1996, Jose "Amang" Parica beat American Jimmy Wetch, 11-4, to win the $100,000 Atlanta Pro 9-Ball Classic in Atlanta City. Also today in 1989, Diana Tanlimco tallied a 15-game 2927 to capture the ladies' Masters title and lift Manila to victory in the 3rd Asian inter-city bowling championship at Greenlanes in San Juan.

NBA RESULTS

Clippers 99, Knicks 86; Raptors 87, Suns 81; Lakers 93, Kings 85. *AP*

Tenpin bowling draws entries from big cities

THE 2ND Pepsi-GameworX Invitational Tenpin Bowling Classic rolls off Nov. 30 with Philippine Bowling Congress president Steve Hontiveros as guest of honor at the StriXe, fourth level of the Festival Supermall in Filinvest Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

Hontiveros, also the Philippine Olympic Committee first vice president, will be joined by Pepsi VP for modern trade operation Felix Yu in the 5 p.m. opening ceremonies. Game proper starts at 7 p.m.

The competition, which will last up to Dec. 4, is an open class single event wherein PBC and FIQ WTBA tenpin bowling rules and regulation will be applied.

Teams from Dagupan Association of Tenpin Bowling, Iloilo City, Bacolod City, Batangas City, San Pablo City, Cavite City and Cebu City have already registered.

"We're expecting a maximum of 204 bowlers throughout the country to join this competition and I'm inviting every bowling fanatic to visit us here at GameworX and watch," said former national coach and GameworX operations manager Caloy de Leon.

A total of P267,000 in the form of gift certificates, merchandise and trophies will be awarded to the champion down to the 24th placer.

Skidding Shark battles Ateneo

TITLEHOLDER Shark Energy Drink hopes to regain its fearsome bite when it clashes with Ateneo-Pioneer today in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

In a surprising twist, the Energy Drink Kings, who beat Welcoat Paints in an epic best-of-seven championship series early this year, lost their last two games, the last one at the hands of Kutitap Sparklers, 77-66, on Nov. 10.

STANDINGS	W	L
Welcoat	3	0
Blu	3	1
ICTSI-Archers	2	0
Kutitap	2	3
Ana	2	3
Shark	1	2
Montaña	1	3
Ateneo-Pioneer	0	2

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Shark vs Ateneo-Pioneer
5:30 p.m.—ICTSI Archers vs Montaña

"We're playing confused at the moment. Roles aren't well-defined because of the entry of the newcomers," said Shark mentor Leo Austria. "Hopefully, the week-long rest is enough for us to solve our problems."

Before the Kutitap game, Shark has never lost twice in a row in the eliminations since taking over the Chowking franchise last year.

The Shark-Ateneo-Pioneer game is set at 3:30 p.m., followed by the ICTSI Archers-Montaña Jewels tiff at 5:30 p.m. ICTSI is proving to be the tournament's surprise after winning its first two games and a win will allow the Archers to catch the Paintmasters on top of the eight-team field.

Despite having the league's tallest lineup, Ateneo-Pioneer is still winless after two games. Blame their youthfulness, the Insurers lost steam in the home-stretch against Montaña (75-70) and Ana Freezers (92-82), respectively.

Six-foot-six Billy Mamaril, Leo Avenido and Miggy Noble are still trying to fit well to Ateneo's rotation. *Dennis U. Eroa*

Taby's Delight; Sandy's Legend

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

NOT to brag but I predicted Lennox Lewis to win. By knockout. I told that to Hermie Rivera, the boxing commentator whose rendition of "Honey Don't" Elvis Presley-style is much, much better than the one done by The Beatles' Ringo Starr, long before the court-ordered fight was held on Sunday in Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. I have always maintained that Hasim Rahman was a one-punch wonder; his knockout victory over Lewis on April 22 was a fluke.

In that ill-fated fight for Rahman, Lewis was a picture of confidence and his knockout punch in the fourth was picture perfect. Leading off with a left jab which was his most potent weapon before the knockout came, Lewis unleashed the blow that ended the Rahman era. It was one round shorter than Rahman's accidental knockout win over Lewis six months earlier. Before the end came, Lewis was ahead in my scorecard.

Even in their first fight, Rahman was supposed to lose. But Lewis was overconfident in that fight, gaining poundage way beyond his fighting weight. Sluggish, the 6-foot-5 Lewis got caught by a wicked right to the jaw in the fifth and absorbed only his second defeat in 40 fights. The two-time champion became a three-time champion on Sunday with the fourth-round kayo win, duplicating Muhammad Ali's feat in the '70s. For the 6-foot-2-1/2 Rahman, the setback was his third in 38 fights.

Lewis said he wants Mike Tyson next.

If that should happen—and I see no reason why it should not happen, given the promise of multi-million dollars at stake—it could be the fight of his life for Lewis. A finely-sculpted win—minus the ear-biting and all—will finally give Lewis the much-coveted niche in boxing history.

■

I raise a glass to Sandy Javier, the owner of Andok's and Flower Factory, for his victory in the Juvenile Colts through his River Bee on Saturday in the 6th San Miguel Beer-Marho Breeders' Cup at Santa Ana. Accentuating his legend as a breeder of champions, Sandy's Wind Blown ruled the Classic on Sunday for a rare back-to-back feat. Wind Blown, bred by Sandy, is now owned by Hermie Esguerra, a golf buddy of mine.

■

The clamor to institutionalize Taby "*Insan*" Tabaniag's "*kalderetang kambing*" has taken a new twist, courtesy of food and coffee connoisseur Bert Bravo.

"Because of Taby's unassailable testimony that '*kalderetang kambing*' is his secret to long life, I have ordered my chef (at Caffe Appassionato) to make the viand a regular fare in our menu," said Bert. "Of course, the monicker for the Ilocano delicacy would be Taby's Delight."

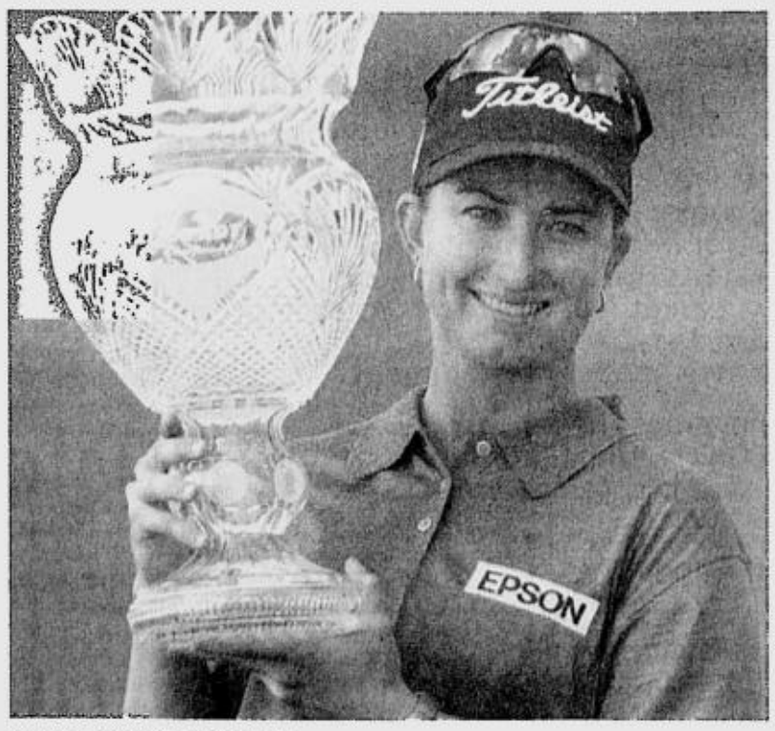
There couldn't be any apter name than that. My *Insan* Taby, who is only 82 years old, will have to celebrate the occasion with a bottle of wine. Make that red, Bert.

Bravo!

■

One great lover of "*kalderetang kambing*" is my *kabaleyan* Sammy Esguerra, who staged the 10th Architects Golf Classic yesterday at Sta. Elena. In his usual inimitable style, Sammy handled the event without a single hitch.

Here's to my *kabaleyan* for another job well done.



A WINNER AGAIN

Karrie Webb of Australia holds trophy symbolic of her victory Sunday in the Tyco ADT Championship at Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida. Webb shot a 68 for a two-stroke victory over Annika Sorenstam. Webb won $215,000 for her third major victory of the year to go beyond $1.5 million for the third straight season. AP

Barkada goes to Capitol

THE EIGHTH leg of the UP Barkada Golf Tournament will tee off at 7 a.m. on Nov. 23, at Capitol Hills. This year's tournament is hosted again by the Alpha Phi Omega ETA Chapter and organized by APO's Willie "Cabby" Caballa, Menggie Cobarrubias, and Ariel Salumbides. The UP APO Alumni Association, through its president Manny Clarino, enjoins all the barkada to attend the tournament where several prizes and giveaways are at stake. UP Barkada is an association of over 200 UP alumni golfers belonging to various fraternities. It was organized to provide continuing professional relationships among alumni frat men and foster camaraderie among their resident members at UP. The association is chaired by Tony Cantero of the Upsilon Sigma Phi fraternity.

Sta. Elena hosts Architects golf

ESGUERRA

THE 10th Architects' Golf Classic went off to a roaring start yesterday at Sta. Elena, drawing some 347 participants.

The event was organized by architect Mon Mendoza and Jimmy Biglang-Awa, with Sammy Esguerra doing a yeoman's job to ensure the tournament's success.

Sponsoring the event was Boysen Paints, which has lined up tournament and raffle prizes worth P500,000. For hole-in-one feats, prizes came from Delta Faucet Company, Digital Cinema In Style, Solahart water heating system and a Mizuno golf set from Gopez Corporation. A SVX Starex 2001 was also a hole-in-one prize while home appliances, a trip to Bangkok and a home theater component were some of the raffle prizes.

Other supporters of the event were Apo Vinyl Products, Puyat Steel, Kenzai, Asahi Glass, Futura Décor, Crown Asia Compounders, Expert Interior, House of Precast, Jardine Schindler Elevator, Julant Pest Control, Maramas Lighthouse, Otis Elevator, Samitrade, Emerald Vinyl, Jackbilt Industries, Moduclasse, New Golden City Builders, Philflex Wires and Cables, Philippine ABS Systems, Stainless Steel Industries and Suria Signs.

Aguilar strong second in China supercross

GLENN Aguilar, the ace rider of the Caltex Revtex KTM motocross stable, added another feather to his cap when he placed second recently in the China leg of the 2001 FIM Asian Supercross Championships at the Chengdu International Circuit.

The country's top motocross rider beat the best motocrossers from Japan, New Zealand, Russia, Mongolia, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and China, yielding the crown to Jay Harvey of Australia.

Harvey's compatriot Scott Bishop took third to complete the podium cast.

The 2001 FIM Asian Supercross Championship which took off in August 2001 has been staged in Japan, Indonesia, China and Thailand prior to the Malaysian leg.

The event, which is packaged and promoted by Xtreme Worx, is broadcasted to over 340 million viewers in the region via Star TV and ESPN.

Macky Carapiet, the president of the FIM (Federacion Internationale de Motorcycliste Suisse) Asian Motorcycle Union and the Motocross Commission project director, appointed Aguilar, the reigning Philippine National Motocross Champion and Rider of the Year, as the Philippine representative to the series.

The designation of Aguilar as Philippine representative comes in line with the National Motorcycle Sport and Safety Association's (Namssa) policy of sending the national champions of the regions represented.

Army shootfest hero

PALAYAN CITY, Nueva Ecija—The Philippine Army bagged the most number of trophies in the 11th Association of Southeast Asian Nation (Asean) Armies Rifle Meet in the Fort Magsaysay firing ranges here. With Pfc. Rodney Rizano and Cpl. Rod Navarro at the helm, the host country won 18 trophies with victories in Pistol events (five), Rifle (12), Machine Gun (2) and the most coveted Perpetual trophy courtesy of Rizano for coming up with the highest index points.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV

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TENNIS: Masters Cup (Sydney) 2001, Highlights at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Seniors Open M1 Champions Tennis 2001, Semifinal #1 at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: US NCAA 2001 Tip-Off Classic - Georgetown Hoyas vs Georgia Bulldogs at 8 a.m. (r - 5 p.m.) on ESPN

GOLF: LPGA - Golf Sports Today Open, First Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

49ers repulse Panthers

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Jeff Garcia threw a 7-yard touchdown pass to Terrell Owens and made a 2-point conversion with 1 second left in regulation. Then the quarterback helped set up Jose Cortez's 26-yard field goal Sunday that lifted San Francisco to a 25-22 win over the Carolina Panthers. It was the fourth time this season Garcia rallied San Francisco (7-2) to either win or tie a game in the waning moments of the fourth quarter. The 49ers are 3-1 in overtime in 2001. *AP*

₱780,000 RICHER

'Bata' rules World Pool League

REYES: Weaving magic again. FILE PHOTO

EFREN "Bata" Reyes nailed down his fourth consecutive victory over the past month after downing British ace Steve Davis, 9-5, on Sunday to reign supreme in the World Pool League in Warsaw, Poland.

After besting eight of the finest cue artists in the world, Reyes found himself richer by $15,000 (P780,000).

His participation in the meet was made possible by sportsman-businessman Aristeo "Putch" Puyat who, together with elder brother Jose G. Puyat, have sponsored Reyes and the other top Filipino through the years.

Puyat requested organizers to invite Reyes in addition to Francisco "Django" Bustamante to match the two British players invited—Davis and last year's World Pool League champion Steve Knight.

Fresh from his record-breaking $160,000 triumph in the Tokyo 9-Ball International tournament last week, Reyes dropped only one match on his way to winning the Poland tourney.

Prior to that, Reyes also topped the Accu-Stats 8-ball invitational tilt in Los Angeles, and the LG Flatron Billards Challenge where he beat Jeanette "The Black Widow" Lee in Manila.

Reyes nipped Bustamante, 7-6, in the semifinals to set up a final duel with Davis, conqueror of World Pool Champion Mike Immonen.

Reyes raced to a 4-1 lead but Davis, using a clinical attack and defensive guile, evened the score at 5-5 in front of a standing room-only crowd at the University of Warsaw arena.

But Reyes was not to be denied. He soon began to get the feel of the table and with some spectacular shots, ran out the next four racks as Davis watched helplessly.

"I was lucky tonight because Steve made a couple of mistakes and left the balls out for me. I always like to play him because he is such a good player," said Reyes. "I am delighted to have won this tournament in front of such a great crowd."

Davis, for his part, recalled their classic battle in last year's World Pool Championship in Cardiff which he won. "This time it was Efren's turn, he always had a little too much for me and although I got close to him, I couldn't quite bridge the gap and create a lead."

Undoubtedly, the best match of the tournament was the semifinal encounter between Reyes and Bustamante. After Reyes raced to a 5-1 lead, Bustamante relied on his awesome breaks and battled back ferociously to put together five racks in a row and grab the lead at 6-5.

However, with the break in his favor, Bustamante got the 4-ball in his run out but uncharacteristically missed. Reyes pounced on the opening to clinch the rack and then finished the match in style. Bustamante won $7,500 for reaching the semifinals.

Caoili finishes 5th in Spain chessfest

FILIPINA international master Arianne Caoili finished tied for the 5th to 10th places, while unranked Christine Castellano wound up at 28th-33rd spots in the prestigious World Youth chess championship won by Georgia's Sopio Gvetadze in Oropesa Del Mar, Spain, recently.

Caoili drew her 11th round match with top-ranked player Inga Charkhalashvili, also of Georgia, to tally seven points in the competition for girls 18-years-old and under. Castellano halved the point with Estonia's Sofia Budylina.

Gvetadze, a Fide Master, also drew her final-round match with Ioulia Makka of Greece to cruise to the championship with 10 points, beating her closest rival, Cristina Calostescu of Romania by 1.5 points.

Caoili entered the tournament carrying a rating of 2257, which is even higher than eventual champion Gvetadze, who has 2252. Charkhalashvili, who has a ranking of 2319, could only finish tied for the 11th-16th places with 6.5 points.

Philta Juniors Classic resumes at Rizal Center

GIRLS' 18-under top seed Charise Godoy faces Anna Martinez and No. 2 Berry Sepulveda battles Jacqueline Gil today at the resumption of the Philta Juniors Classic 6 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Sepulveda will also see action in the 16 under against Angelica Ngo while Gil takes on Catherine Flores.

In the boys' 16 under division, No. 1 Irwin de Guzman goes up against Arithmetico Lim in this tournament supported by JNG Bank, Ad-In Consultancy, Dunlop Balls 7 PSC.

No. 8 Michael Narvaez meets Mauric Lao at 9 a.m. to be followed by the match between second seed Jandrick de Castro against Ronoel Allan Tan and No. 4 Boris Jan Chavez against Rommel Canillas at 10 a.m.Lao is also scheduled to play Christopher Borlongan in the 14 under first round.

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PSC confident of meeting Acap demands

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason, who left for the United States last week, has instructed commissioner Richie Garcia to carry out the orders of President Arroyo regarding the demands of the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines.

But before he left, Tuason expressed apprehension over the prospects of addressing Acap's demands and stressed that it will have serious repercussions on the country's preparations for the 14th Asian Games in Pusan, South Korea, next year.

Tuason said Acap's demands require money which the agency will have to get from other funds intended for the national sports associations and their training expenses.

"There will be repairs and innovations, no doubt about that, but the PSC board will work overtime in determining how to get all our priorities going," he said. "The Asian Games is up next year and we would not want preparations to be side-swiped along the way."

Acap officials, let by its president Jaime Sebastian, met with PSC officials Thursday. The Acap has requested an increase in athletes and coaches monthly allowances and repairs and renovations of their quarters specifically at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Some of the demands, according to Tuason, have already been met. "The increase in allowances of athletes and coaches has been increased effective November," he said.

"The other cost concerning repairs would have to be scrutinized deeper since the-PSC does not have a budget for it from the general appropriations," Tuason explained. "So we have to go to other source, and that is the NSDF (National Sports Development Fund)."

The NSDF comes from the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation's earnings from the casinos. It is used to fund NSAs, particularly on the foreign exposure of their athletes and the hosting of local and international competitions.

Top LGBA gamecock breeder known today

THE LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year winner will be known as the third LGBA 6-Stag Derby gets going at Mandaluyong Coliseum beginning at 7 tonight.

Lawyer Joey Mendoza of Talim Island, Rizal (Tagapo Farm) is the current frontrunner with 10.5 points, but closely pursuing him are Biboy Enriquez of Rizal (March 19-21 Ucap I), Jun Sevilla (JRS Spectrum) and Mike Buendia of Batangas (Buenas Dias) who have 10 points each.

Still very much in contention are Wilson Go and Dr. Gil Nicolas (632 Gamefarm, 9.5); LGBA president Boy Diaz and Butch Littaua (Purple Haze, 8.5); Peping Cojuangco (CAT Stinger, 8.5); Bitchot Echauz (Ente Farm Goldrush, 8); Bobby del Rosario (mangzee Farm II), Boyet Plaza (Surefire DGP) and Ricky Castillo (E-68) who have 7 points apiece.

Maj. Bobby Doromal's 77 Luzviminda II and Mauro Prieto's Ucap March 19-21 II have six points each while Mario Villamor and Mario Antonio's M2 and Jojie dela Merced's Happy Palayan have five points each.

This prestigious event is sponsored by Washout Natural Insecticidal Shampoo, Wormal, Enertone (ready mix maintenance feeds) and the dynamic trio of Promotor '43, Respigen 15 and Voltplex.

For inquiries, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 535-2341 and 534-4110.

SOBREPEÑA CUP

Former Tourism Undersecretary Russel Sobrepeña and Manila Southwoods Tennis Academy board director Architect Ruben Payumo flank the winners of Fil-Estate Sports Foundation Inc.'s 2nd Sobrepeña Cup held recently at the Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club. Shown (from left to right) are Bong Santos (Class A), Annie Que (overall net champion), Jimmy Borromeo (overall gross champion), Mario Crisologo (Class B) and Noel Manansala (Class C).

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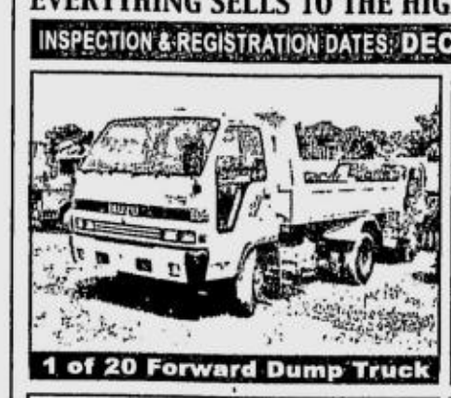

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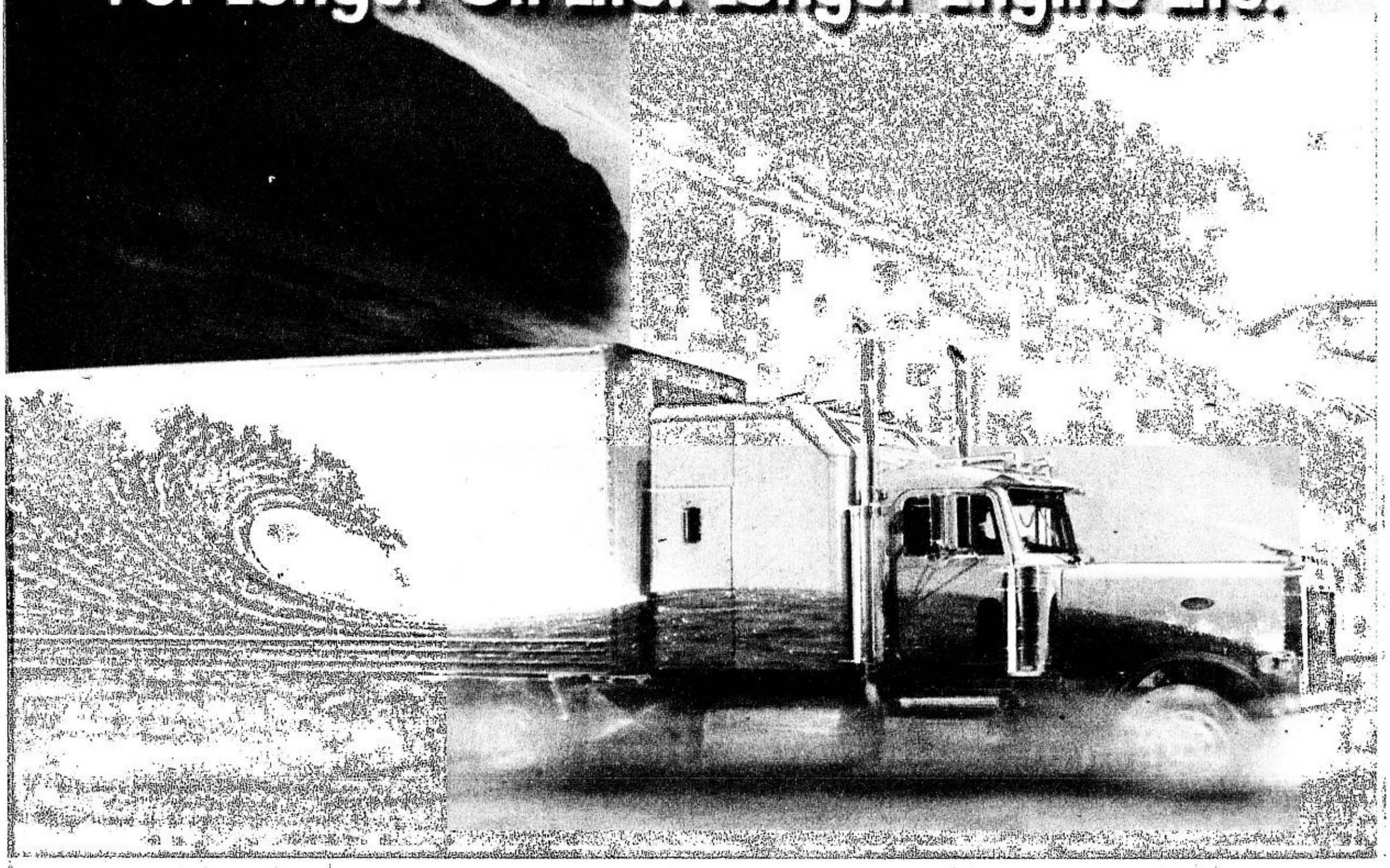

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Recycling firm execs jailed, plant closed, says Greenpeace

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

INSTEAD of presenting documentary evidence to the Metro Manila Development Authority to prove that the firm selling the new garbage technology called thermoselect has violated many environmental records abroad, the environmental group Greenpeace Philippines merely elaborated its previous charges against the company.

Von Hernandez, campaign director for Southeast Asia of Greenpeace Philippines, yesterday said Interstate Waste Management Inc. has criminal records abroad and described the company as a "shadowy company with numerous financial and environmental scandals."

Hernandez said Interstate manager Gunter Kiss was sentenced to 11 months imprisonment for environmental violations in Italy in 1990, and two other company officials drew three- to six-month jail terms for the offenses.

A thermoselect incinerator was supposedly operated in Italy without a permit and "illegally stored hazardous waste in its premises," Hernandez said. The incinerator was shut down for a while because of its violations and on March 6, 1991, it exploded and injured two people, he added.

Propaganda

Earlier, Metro Manila mayors led by Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez pushed for the use of thermoselect as the final solution to the mounting garbage problem in the metropolis.

METRO Manila garbage. FILE PHOTO

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. also said the new technology "is good and seems effective."

On Sunday, Abalos challenged Greenpeace to prove its allegations.

"It seems Abalos believes the propaganda of the company," Hernandez countered. "The track record of the company speaks for itself. In theory, the technology seems perfect. In practice, it's a different thing.

"Thermoselect is misleading authorities and public opinion because it is marketing a polluting incineration technology," he said. "To our knowledge, this is not the first time that thermoselect is trying to push its polluting technology in developing countries."

In a letter sent to the Inquirer, Roger van den Berghe, Interstate consultant in the Philippines, denied the allegations and explained that the alleged toxic waste stored in the Italian plant was in fact a "by-product" waiting to undergo the technology's recycling system at that time.

Van den Berghe said the plant was eventually allowed to operate after an investigation by Italian authorities.

'Predators'

Hernandez also accused the company of offering bribes in 1991 and 1994 in a deal to build a thermoselect factory in Switzerland.

"These are professional predators who would tell you anything to win a contract," Hernandez said. "The technology...is a variant of incineration. It generates toxic fumes and toxic ash that would end up in landfills and contaminate groundwater reservoirs."

The Clean Air Act bans the use of incineration to process waste.

Hernandez said his group would turn over all its information to the MMDA and the mayors.

He stressed that the garbage crisis in Metro Manila could be solved only "by reducing waste, separating it at the source, recycling and composting as much as possible."

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I'm not dead, I just woke up, says Clarissa's guard

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

"HOW can I be dead when I just woke up?"

This was PO2 Miguel Padrones Sabuya's surprised and confused reaction to a report that he was dead.

Sabuya, a 32-year-old member of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force who is also the bodyguard of Joseph Estrada impeachment star witness Clarissa Ocampo, was reported dead after Western Police District (WPD) agents found a dead man bearing Sabuya's PNP ID in Quiapo, Manila.

It turned out that Sabuya lost his ID three years ago.

Sabuya, of Barangay Mendoza, Roxas, Palawan, yesterday turned up at the WPD headquarters. He said his fellow policemen had awakened him before dawn yesterday to tell him that he was dead.

Last Sunday at 11:45 p.m., WPD policemen found a dead man along Estero de Arlegui in Quiapo. The victim had a gunshot wound in the right temple.

Police said the man had Sabuya's ID with him and so they thought he was indeed a PNP-SAF member. The man also reportedly looked like Sabuya.

Investigators became more intrigued because they also found a .9 mm. plastic toy gun on the dead man.

They theorized that the victim might have pretended to be a policeman and that he tried to get protection from drug dealers in the area.

Sabuya said he was awakened around 5:30 a.m. yesterday after his fellow policemen began calling him on the phone. They had heard on radio that he was dead, he said.

He said he and his friends decided to go to the WPD headquarters in Manila to correct the report. He said he lost his ID while he was travelling from Mindoro to Manila in March 1998.

He told the Inquirer that he was also concerned about his mother in Puerto Princesa, who might have heard of the radio report.

"I haven't even called her up," he said. "She must be worried about me."

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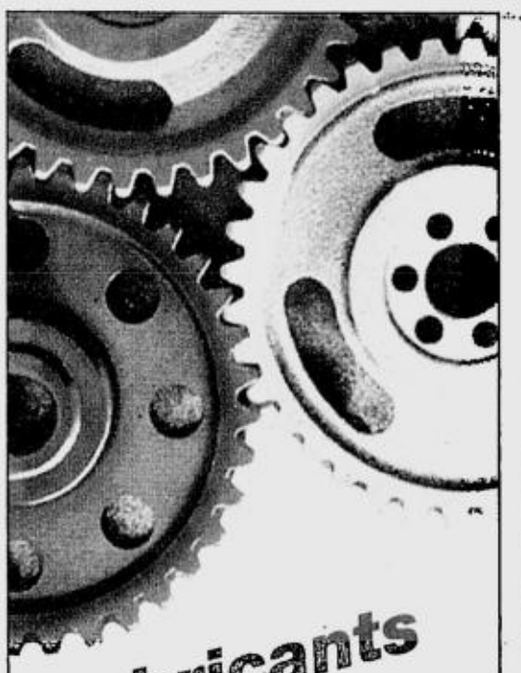

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Government hasn't learned from the Moros

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SUPREME Court justices hearing the case on the constitutionality of the plunder law are under tremendous pressure from the groups for and against deposed President Estrada.

Erap's freedom or continued detention and trial hinge on the decision of the high tribunal.

If the high court rules that the law is unconstitutional, Erap will be freed on bail and charged with the much lesser offense of graft.

This is the time for the high court justices to show their independence. Many citizens think that the present Supreme Court is swayed by public opinion or by other considerations.

***

One of my lawyer-friends who is active in his practice told me once that some high court justices are corrupt.

According to this friend of mine, all one has to do to win a case pending in the high tribunal is to know the right people who can talk business with the corrupt justices.

He mentioned the names of some of these justices, but I won't identify them for obvious reasons.

***

This is probably the only country in the world where negotiations for ransom with kidnappers are reported in the media. In other countries, the kidnapping is kept secret until after the victim is rescued or released.

Reporting the kidnapping while negotiations for ransom are in progress is very dangerous for the victim. His or her kidnappers might just abandon the idea of talking ransom and kill him or her instead to keep the police off their tracks.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina was right in calling on the media for "self restraint" in handling kidnap-for-ransom stories.

***

Eighteen members of the Special Forces, the Army's elite unit, were killed in an ambush by the New People's Army (NPA) in Cateel, Davao Oriental.

That was a very big blow to the military. Those killed were no ordinary foot soldiers; they were the cream of the crop. They taught militiamen how to fight NPA guerillas in their own game.

If those Army commandos could be ambushed and killed by the NPAs, how much more vulnerable are the ordinary infantrymen.

***

Complacency killed those Special Forces troopers —they were overconfident.

They were ambushed because they rode on a dump truck when they should have been walking in the jungle. They were sitting ducks on the truck.

US Army commandos don't ride in trucks or jeeps in going to battle because they're liable to be ambushed. US Special Forces make use of off-the-beaten tracks in the jungles or ride in helicopters.

***

Field reports from Jolo yesterday said Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) rebels attacked an Army camp. Scores were killed, most of them civilians, according to my military sources.

Haven't those MNLF rebels been integrated into the Armed Forces?

There's a saying that you never turn your back on a Moro.

***

In 1973, the defunct Philippine Constabulary trained one company of Maranaws in Camp Crame for assignment to their home provinces of Lanao Norte and Sur.

When the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) attacked Marawi City, most of the Maranaw troopers defected to the rebels.

The government should have learned from that mistake.

***

Former Col. Billy Bibit continues to cling to his post at Subic Freeport like a barnacle to a ship.

He doesn't want to budge even after he received orders from his superiors at the Bureau of Customs in Manila for him to move over to Clark Free Trade Zone.

The reason he gives for not moving over to Clark is that it should first be made into a regular port. Clark is only a sub-port. He says reassigning him to Clark is a demotion.

But the real reason, my sources say, is that Bibit has made deals with smugglers who use Subic Freeport as their port of entry. The deals have yet to be consummated, the sources say.

***

Bibit's continued defiance of a lawful order for him to be reassigned to Clark has brought embarrassment to Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva.

Poor Titus! He doesn't want trouble in his agency that's why he keeps on placating Bibit who is acting like a spoiled brat.

I heard Bibit was asking around who in the bureau fed me the information so he could make reprisals.

Obviously, everybody is afraid of Bibit, a member of the revolutionary Reform the Armed Forces (RAM).

P10M for renovation of four firetraps

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE RENOVATION of four hospitals declared as firetraps by the Bureau of Fire Protection will soon be underway after the Department of Health received a P10-million budget for the repairs.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday said the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office has pledged P10 million for the DOH infrastructure needs.

The department, however, needs P20 million more to complete the repairs of the four public hospitals, which is expected to start early next year.

"We haven't approached anyone else," Dayrit said, adding he was not sure yet where to get the additional fund requirement. "We have asked for a lot of things from the PCSO already."

Dayrit said he would consult with the DOH's infrastructure experts on the reconstruction requirements of the Dr. Jose Fabella Hospital, Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Tondo Medical Center and San Lazaro Hospital.

The four public hospitals were among 54 establishments in Metro Manila identified "with deficiencies and recommended for closure" by the BFP during a Senate hearing last September.

Also identified as fire hazards were the Ospital ng Tondo, Ospital ng Maynila, Ospital ng Sampaloc, Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital, Cardinal Santos Hospital and Polymedic Hospital.

Dayrit said the PCSO is expected to release the P10 million by yearend, while the DOH looks for other fund sources until early next year.

2 boys slain in shootout, rumble

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

TWO boys aged 13 and 12 were killed in Manila Sunday night, the first in a rumble between street gangs, the other in the crossfire between a drunken man and a law enforcer.

High school sophomore Daniel D. Bautista, 13, was beaten up, stabbed, and shot dead by suspected members of the Trese Vigilante Gang about 9 p.m. Sunday near the corner of Remedios and San Antonio streets in Malate, Manila, said SPO1 Raul Olavario of the Western Police District homicide section.

Bautista, of Singalong Street, Malate, Manila, was shot in the right eye and body, and was stabbed just below the left eye and chest, Olavario said.

The victim was allegedly a member of a rival gang, the Most Wanted Terrorist gang, police said.

Bautista's gangmates called him up saying their rivals had "invaded their territory on Agoncillo Street," said Olavario.

Bautista and two gangmates went out and met the rival group. Soon, they were throwing stones at each other, police said. Other members of the rival gang joined in the melee.

About 20 Trese Vigilante Gang members caught Bautista, ganged up on him and beat him up until a gunshot rang out, Olavario said. Bautista was left lying in the middle of the street.

In Tondo, student Reynaldo Roque, 12, was killed and four bystanders were wounded when they got caught in the crossfire between Rosendo A. Pangilinan and PO1 Dennis D. Santiago of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force, said SPO1 Diomedes Labarda of the Western Police District homicide section.

Pangilinan, 29, of Maypajo, Caloocan City, was also injured when he shot it out with Santiago, 30, an SAF member assigned to the Commission on Elections, Labarda said.

Police identified the injured as Teresa Velasco, 38, of Sampaloc, Manila; and Allan D. Santiago, 30, Restituto P. Angeles, 36, and Arnold R. Dayao, 32, all of Concha Street, Tondo.

Labarda said Santiago had just arrived at his house and decided to buy food when he saw a drunken Pangilinan causing a commotion at the corner of Concha and Camba streets shortly before 9 p.m. Sunday. Pangilinan was armed with a handgun and was dragging a woman with him, witnesses said.

Santiago approached Pangilinan, introduced himself as a policeman and tried to pacify Pangilinan, Labarda said. Pangilinan aimed his gun at Santiago and fired successively, Labarda added.

Santiago fired back and hit Pangilinan.

Pangilinan is now confined at the Manila Doctor's Hospital while Santiago is under investigation, Labarda said.

Oil depot site narrowed down to 3

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

PASAY City Mayor Peewee Trinidad yesterday criticized the government for including Pasay as among the alternative sites for the controversial oil depot in Pandacan, Manila.

Trinidad said the city would not accommodate the oil facility since it would endanger the lives of Pasay residents.

"Definitely, it cannot be transferred here," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. "They (authorities) have to look for another place, perhaps in Navotas."

He said officials should first conduct a comprehensive study on the transfer.

Earlier, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson recommended a reclamation area in Pasay near the mouth of the Pasig River as the new site for the oil depot. But Alvarez could not pinpoint the exact location of the site and has yet to determine if it would be under the jurisdiction of Pasay, Manila or Navotas.

A 50-hectare island off the coast of Pampanga is another possible site for the oil depot, Alvarez said.

On Sunday, Rep. Ricky Sandoval of Malabon-Navotas welcomed the relocation of the oil depot on a reclamation site off the coast of Navotas. He said the presence of the oil depot in Navotas would boost the town's small fishing industry and generate more jobs for the residents.

About 5,000 residents could be employed if the depot would be transferred to Navotas, Sandoval said.

The Manila City council had passed a resolution on the transfer of the oil depot from Pandacan within six months. The depot has been described by critics as a threat to the lives of Manila residents as well as an environmental hazard, a fire trap and a terrorist target.

Yesterday, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza remained firm that the Pandacan oil depot has to go within six months.

In a joint hearing of the Senate committee on energy and committee on environment yesterday, Atienza said the "continued operation of the oil depot in Pandacan constitutes a clear and continuing danger to the lives and properties of Manileños."

Drug network uses Metro towns, Rizal, police say

INTELLIGENCE agents of the Rizal Provincial Police Office have uncovered an illegal drug network that utilizes the coastal towns of Rizal province and the southernmost towns of Metro Manila as transshipment points.

According to RPPO intelligence agents, who asked not to be identified, drugs coming from Quezon, Laguna and Batangas provinces are either brought overland to drug peddlers in southern Metro Manila via Rizal or shipped through Laguna de Bay.

The agents said the recent information provided by an arrested suspect in an illegal drug case in Pasay City confirmed their findings.

Suspected drug pusher Susan Estillo told investigators she got her supply of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu from Maharlika Village, Taguig. She said a number of drug pushers based in Pasay City also bought their commodity from the same place.

Estillo, 38, was arrested early last week during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Maricaban. Some 30 grams of suspected shabu were seized from her. *Nelson F. Flores*

UP employees demand more Christmas incentive

BY AGNES E. DONATO

ABOUT 500 employees of the University of the Philippines in Quezon City and in Baguio City yesterday staged picket to demand a bigger incentive this Christmas.

During the picket in Quezon City, members of the All-UP Workers Union and other UP employees asked university president Francisco Nemenzo to grant them a P7,000 incentive this Christmas instead of the P2,500 they received last year.

Nemenzo had a brief dialogue with the protesters at the UP administration building on the Diliman campus and said all he could promise as of now was that the incentive would not be lower than last year's.

But he admitted he had yet to see if the university funds could afford the P7,000 Christmas bonus that the employees were asking for.

System-wide union president Buboy Cabrera said in an interview that the Christmas bonus being given to employees had been on a downward trend since Nemenzo became university president.

Cabrera recalled that employees got P7,000 each in the last two years of the administration of former UP president Emil Javier.

When Nemenzo took over in 1999, the bonus went down to P5,000 and this was even cut by half the following year, Cabrera said.

On Nov. 12, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin issued budget circular No. 2001-02 which reiterated President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's directive that government agencies are not prohibited from giving out cash incentives to their employees.

At UP Baguio, about 300 employees and teachers joined the system-wide "silent protest" and signature campaign.

"The incentive should either be maintained or increased, considering the depreciation of the buying power of the peso," said a female professor.

"We are fighting for the incentive grant because we know that there is a budget for it," said Raulita Gutierrez, Baguio spokesperson of the All UP Workers Union.

The protesters were also calling for the restoration of the cost of living allowance (Cola) worth P500, which was withdrawn after Republic Act No. 6578, or the salary standardization law, was implemented.

With a report from Desiree Caluza,PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, November 20, 2001
33rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Mac 6:18-31
Gospel: Lk 19:1-10

When Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the city, a man named Zaccheus was there. He was a tax collector and a wealthy man. He wanted to see what Jesus was like, but he was a short man and could not see because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree. From there he would be able to see Jesus who had to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, come down quickly for I must stay at your house today." So Zaccheus hurried down and received him joyfully.

All the people who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to the house of a sinner as a guest." But Zaccheus spoke to Jesus, "The half of my goods, Lord, I give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay him back four times as much." Looking at him Jesus said, "Salvation has come to this house today, for he is also a true son of Abraham. The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost."

Commentary

In the gospel of Luke, Jesus has disciples among the poor and among the rich. One of the rich disciples, whom Luke presents as a model is Zaccaheus, a chief tax collector. By his occupation according to the social standards of the times, he is a public sinner. Now Jesus comes as his house guest. Now with his close encounter with Jesus, Zacchaeus manifests his generosity—in charities for the poor and in compensation for those to whom he might have been unjust. Luke clearly presents Zacchaeus as the model rich Christian. He is one who seriously responds to the teaching of Jesus concerning the duty of the rich towards victims of social injustice. The obligation of social justice is demanded of all.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (ELECTORAL LAW)—Pre-proclamation controversy—Section 241 of the Omnibus Election Code provides that a pre-proclamation controversy refers to any question pertaining to or affecting the proceedings of the Board of Canvassers which may be raised by any candidate or by any registered political party or coalition of political parties before the Board or directly with the Commission, on any matter raised under Sections 233, 234, 235 and 236 in relation to the preparation, transmission, receipt, custody and appreciation of the election returns. Section 243 of the Code enumerates the specific issues that may be raised in a pre-proclamation controversy. The enumeration is restrictive and exclusive. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez, Belac v. Commission on Elections, G.R. No. 145802, April 4, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Rizal Park prayer rally

CHRISTIANS from the Philippines, South Korea, India and other Asian countries will converge at the Quirino grandstand at the Rizal Park in Manila for a prayer rally for world peace billed "Love is the Answer," Nov. 21-22 at 6 p.m.

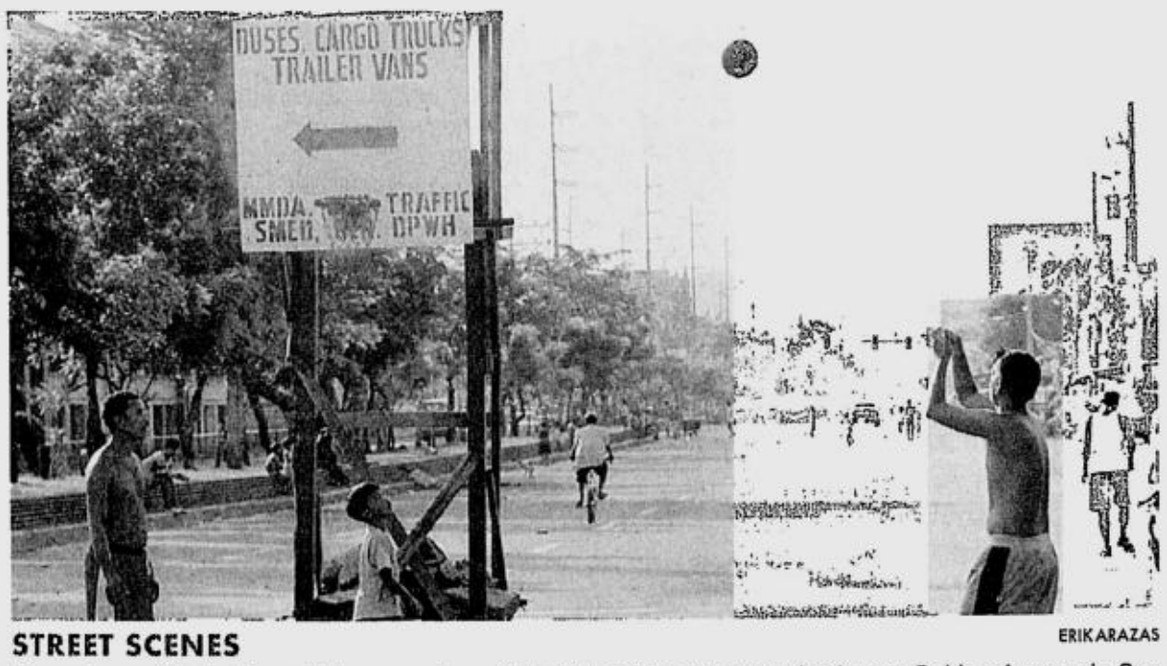
The multi-racial gathering, spearheaded by Christian evangelical groups in the country, will also feature musical performances by Christian artists such as Carla Martinez and Carlo Orosa on Nov. 21 and Gary Valenciano on Nov. 22.

Participants will pray for world peace, freedom from poverty, spiritual revival and other global and local concerns of social, political, economic and spiritual significance.

They will also specifically lift up in prayer the victims of the armed conflict in Mindanao—those driven from their homes, impoverished and wounded.

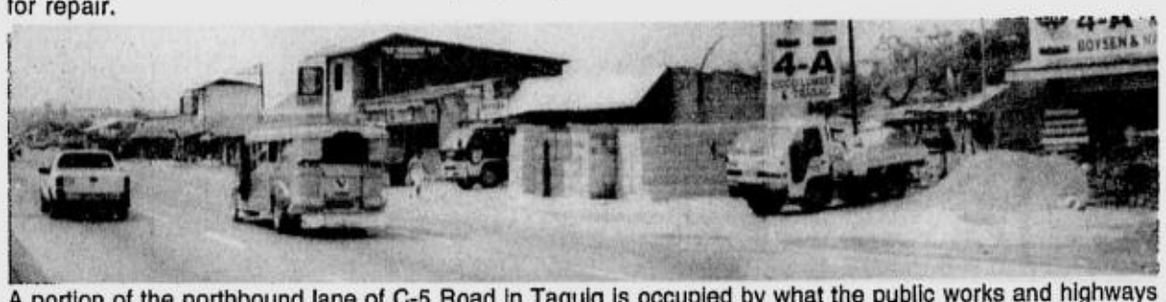
The "Love is the Answer" prayer rally is organized by the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) and the Korean Asian Mission Conference, in partnership with the Philippines for Jesus Movement, the Philippine Ministerial Fellowship Network, Far East Broadcasting Co. and CBN Asia.

For details, interested parties may contact PCEC at 433-1549 or 913-1655, with e-mail at pcec@pacific.net.ph.



STREET SCENES ERIK ARAZAS

Once always filled with vehicles, a portion of the South Superhighway (top) near Quirino Avenue in San Andres, Manila has become a spacious park, complete with half a basketball court, as the road is closed for repair.



A portion of the northbound lane of C-5 Road in Taguig is occupied by what the public works and highways department called "rich squatters." The DPWH reportedly complained that a C-5 road widening project has been delayed due to the presence of some 200 commercial establishments backed by alleged protection rackets run by powerful syndicates.

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3 KING OF GLADIATORS
4 SERENDIPITY
5 WEYT A MINIT
6 THE ONE
7 BUBBLE BOY
8 ANO BANG MERON KA?
9 JEEPERS CREEPERS
10 TRIP

ERMITA 536-7909 TO 12

1 SERENDIPITY
2 JOY RIDE
3 WEYT A MINIT
4 BUBBLE BOY
5 ANO BANG MERON KA?
6 TRIP
7 CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S

NOVALICHES 935-3229 to 31

1 JOY RIDE
2 JOY RIDE
3 CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
4 SERENDIPITY
5 ANO BANG MERON KA?
6 ANO BANG MERON KA?
7 WEYT A MINIT
8 TRIP

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1 CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
2 KING OF GLADIATORS
3 ANO BANG MERON KA?
4 TRIP
5 WEYT A MINIT
6 JOY RIDE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1 AMERICAN PIE 2
2 LEGALLY BLONDE
3 DOWN TO EARTH
4 MR. NICE GUY
5 EXTREME FORCE
6 TRIP

METRO EAST 632-9115-18 /633-7641loc. 279

1 ANO BANG MERON KA?
2 BUBBLE BOY
3 CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
4 JOY RIDE
5 JOY RIDE
6 SERENDIPITY
7 WEYT A MINIT
8 ANO BANG MERON KA?

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DOS EKIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TRIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE ONE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KAMO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	DON'T SAY A WORD
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	THE ONE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	NAG AAPOY NA LAMAN / TEENAGE SEDUCTION
ODEON	JOY RIDE
ODEON-2	KING OF THE GLADIATOR
ROBEN	WEYT A MINIT, KAPENG MAINIT
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	CROCODILE / ST. FRANCIS VILLE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	WEYT A MINIT
REMAR	WEYT A MINIT, KAPENG MAINIT
REMAR-2	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	WEYT A MINIT
B	ANO BANG MERON KA?
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-61 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE ONE
CINEMA-2	BUBBLE BOY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
CINEMA-2	TRIP
CINEMA-3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KING OF THE GLADIATOR
CINEMA-6	TRIP
CINEMA-7	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-8	WEYT A MINIT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLIS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JOY RIDE
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY
CINEMA-12	THE ONE
CINEMA-14	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-15	WEYT A MINIT

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	JOY RIDE
CINEMA-2	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-3	CAPT. CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN
CINEMA-4	THE ONE
CINEMA-5	BUBBLE BOY
CINEMA-6	SERENDIPITY

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

EIGENMANN. Makes his recording debut with "Loving."

Gabby goes on promo tour

RIDING high on the success of his debut album, "Loving" under Neon Records, Gabby Eigenmann makes another round of SM malls to perform and sign autographs for his fans as part of his album's promo.

Gabby will visit SM Cebu on Nov. 20 and SM Southmall on Nov. 21.

On Nov. 28, Gabby will be the special guest of Regine Velasquez in her own series of mall tour for her latest album, "Reign," to be released by Viva Records.

Gabby recorded a song with Regine, "For the Love of You," included in the latter's "R2K" album.

Gabby and Regine's next stop is SM Sucat on Nov. 29, SM Megamall on Dec. 2, SM Bacoor on Dec. 9, SM North Edsa on Dec. 13, SM Pampanga on Dec. 19 and SM Southmall on Dec. 20.

CAMO. New image

Repackaged solo album

VERY few artists deserve a second chance.

In an industry where new artists sprout in the scene on a daily basis, even as established artists maintain strong grips on their crowns, an extinguished flame is more likely to remain a puff forever than re-ignited.

But then again, rare are the artists who consider re-inventing themselves. One of them is 1998's best new artist Lito Camo.

In a complete 180 degree-turn around, the musician from Mindoro has traded the *putong* and the alternative sound to something more accessible and attuned to the climes of the ever-morphing music scene.

The brave bid has paid off. Though his last album, "Ano Camo?," only produced minor hits when it was released last year, BMG Records Pilipinas is again putting their bets on the album by repackaging it.

Dubbed "Ano Camo Ulit?," the re-released CD contains 12 of the original tracks, plus three new ones. So aside from last year's hits such as "Hikaw Hi Lolo" and "Ikaw Pa Lang," everyone is treated to Lito's latest gems like "Miss Na Miss Kita," "Isang Halik Ko Lang" and "Minahal Kita."

"Ano Camo Ulit?" is released under BMG Records Pilipinas.

Cinemanila opens doors to young filmmakers

THE WORKS of young, independent filmmakers are highlighted in this year's Cinemanila International Film Festival, according to founder and festival director Tikoy Aguiluz.

The festival will also focus on world cinema, Asian cinema and digital cinema.

Cinemanila took inspiration from the Sundance Film Festival founded by Hollywood actor-director Robert Redford. Cinemanila will give local filmmakers a chance to present their works alongside great film artists from various countries around the world.

"Cinemanila shares the same vision with Sundance in promoting quality independent films and having interaction with the mainstream industry," Aguiluz says.

"The festival is also a channel to produce films that are independent in spirit. These are breakthrough films that showcase new talents but should have commercial value."

Last year's young cinema showcase featured the works of Raymund Red and Mario O' Hara.

"Red represents the younger filmmakers," Aguiluz says. "Despite his age, he has accomplished so much."

Red won the Golden Palm Award in last year's Cannes Film Festival for his short film, "Anino."

SCENE from the Norwegian film, "Detektor," by Pal Jackman.

JAN Hrebejk's "Divided We Fall," from the Czech Republic.

O'Hara, meanwhile, is the "unknown master of Philippine cinema" and he has done so much but has not received the tribute he deserves," adds Tikoy.

This year, Cinemanila is tapping the works of Lav Diaz ("Batang West Side" and "Hesus Rebolusyonaryo"), Eric Matti ("Sa Huling Paghihintay"), Jean Cajayon ("The Debut"), David Makiling ("Too Much Sleep"), Maricel Samson and Ellen Ongkiko for possible exhibition.

Cinemanila as a venue for new artists, bridges the gap between foreign and local movie industries by showcasing their films through a healthy competition.

A total of 80 films will be screened at the Glorietta and Greenbelt Theaters from Dec. 7 to 16. Fifteen films are in competition. For exhibition are 15 other films, 30 short films and 10 digital movies.

Opening night is Dec. 6 at the Greenbelt Theater. Awarding ceremonies will be held on Dec. 16.

Awards at stake are best actor and best actress, best short film, best documentary, NETPAC/FIPRECI award, the Lino Brocka and the Ishmael Bernal awards.

This year, too, Cinemanila is planning to organize a section of French films. Other highlights of the festival is a symposium on digital cinema, an exhibition of Asian American films, photo exhibit and workshops.

Makati City hosts the 2001 Cinemanila International Film Festival.

'Annaliza' sequel soon to air on IBC

THE PRODUCER of TV's most popular soap opera in the early '80s promises shows that will captivate audiences anew, upon his return to IBC-13.

Rey Benedicto, who produced the smash TV soaps "Flordeluna" and Annaliza in different networks, will come out with his sequel to "Annaliza." It will be titled "Annalinda."

For this, Benedicto's group is now scouting for two children, ages 11 and 5, respectively, for the required similarities to those who played the roles of the late Julie Vega and Sugar Benedicto in the original "Annaliza" soap.

"Annalinda" is a tearjerker for the masses and homebodies of the new millennium," he said.

Likewise, Benedicto will also revive his old sitcom, "Manok ni San Pedro," also on Channel 13.

The producer also revealed his intention of producing a noontime news-magazine show for the masses and another news-features program at night.

Both shows will be hosted and directed by a veteran radio-TV personality, while "Annalinda" and "Manok ni San Pedro" will be directed by the producers' most trusted allies, the Soriano brothers—Fundador and Gil.

Aside from producing "money-making" shows, Benedicto was the marketing manager of Channel 13, who closed the deal with Vintage Enterprises for the channel's coverage of the Philippine Basketball Association Games.

He was, however, unceremoniously kicked out in 1994 by Tomas "Buddy" Gomez, then the appointed caretaker of the government-sequestered TV station. This resulted in a seven-year legal battle that favored the producer in a decision reached by the Court of Appeals on Oct. 28, 2001.

RED VELVET LADIES. (from left) Ella Palermo, Tacy Castañeda and Mitch Server.

Red Velvet sings revival tunes

THEY are corporate people by day, working in carpeted offices and clicking away at their computer keyboards.

By night, they exchange their corporate suits for more laidback attire (read: sexy outfits for the ladies; informal shirt for the men).

They're the Red Velvet band, whose repertoire consists mostly of revivals ('70s and '80s hits).

Onstage, the seven members can shift from sophisticated to naughty tunes with remarkable ease.

Vocalist Anastacia "Tacy" Castañeda sounds like a black singer with her soulful renditions of Aretha Franklin's "Respect" and Tina Turner's "Let's Stay Together."

A former member of the Rage Band, Tacy took voice lessons from Tessie Agana Santos and Irma Ponce-Enrile Potenciano.

Fellow vocalist Ella Palermo has performed in China, Malaysia, Japan, Dubai and Hong Kong.

Mitch Server, the group's choreographer and band leader, is a jazz dancer at heart. She has had several performances at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. She was vocalist of the Hotdog band in the early '90s.

The rhythm section is composed of keyboardist Jojo Palermo (also the band's musical director), lead guitarist Birdie de Gunman, bass guitarist Rey Escalada and drummer Allen Policarpio.

This month, Red Velvet performs at Conway's Bar of Makati Shangri-La (Wednesdays), Dish (Fridays) and Strumm's El Pueblo (Saturdays).

For details, call 897-9751 or 890-8049.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

JOY RIDE - P 13 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45	SERENDIPITY - P 13 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10	CAPT. CORRELLI'S - P 13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
THE ONE - P 13 11:30, 1:35, 3:40, 5:45, 7:50, 9:50	BUBBLE BOY - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	SERENDIPITY - P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

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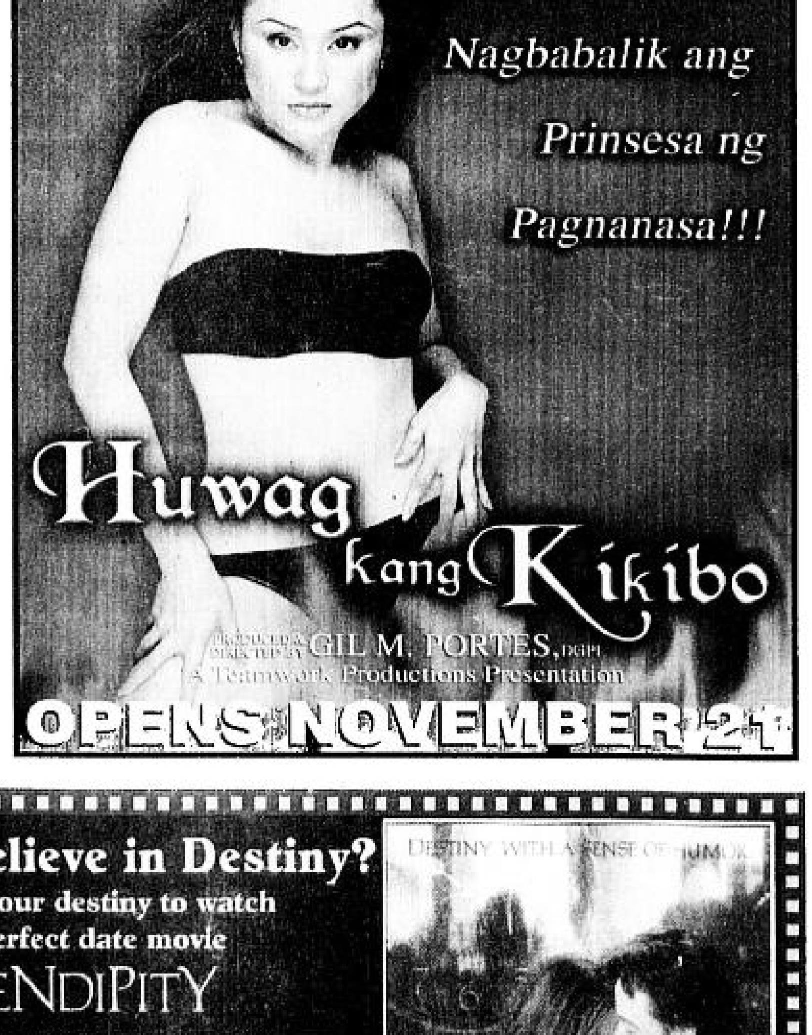
'pag si MANOY at LONG pinagsama, gugulong ka sa pagtawa!!!

MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED STRICTLY FOR ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted



OPENS NOVEMBER 21 !

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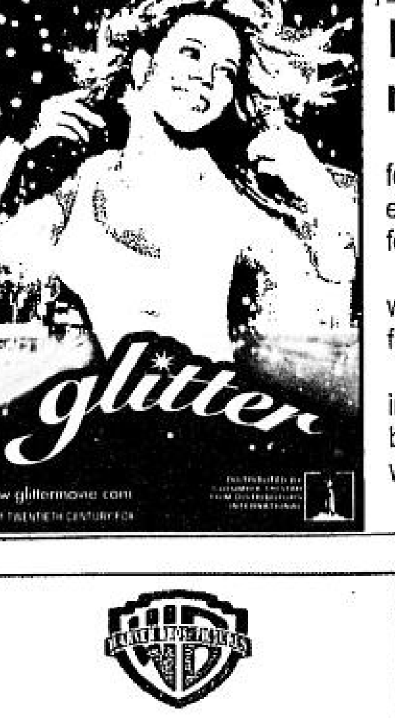


From 'orphan' to pop superstar

Mariah in a heartwarming rags-to-riches music drama

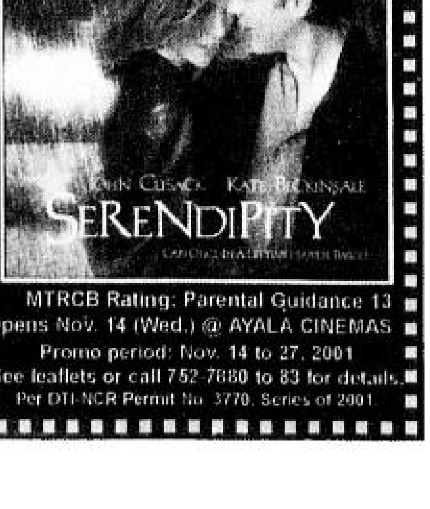
Pop music legend Mariah Carey makes her major feature film debut in Columbia Pictures' GLITTER, an emotional and heartwarming drama with music featuring her hits "Never Too Far" and "Loverboy."

GLITTER is the story of a young singer, Billie Frank, who overcomes a troubled childhood and struggles to find her true family and her true voice.

Abandoned as a child by her mother, Billie grows up in an orphanage. Discovered by a charismatic "bad boy" deejay who becomes her lover, she is soon on her way to pop superstardom.

OPENS TOMORROW

Do You Believe in Destiny?
Make it your destiny to watch
the perfect date movie
SERENDIPITY
starring John Cusack & Kate Beckinsale @
THE PERFECT DATE MOVIEHOUSE
AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
& GET A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE YOUR DREAM DATE: Room Accommodation in Oakwood, Regine's Concert for 2 @ OnStage, Dinner for 2 in TGIFridays, Entrance for 2 in Enchanted Kingdom & Movie Tickets for 2 for every 2 SERENDIPITY tickets purchased.
FreshBurst LISTERINE · Oakwood · SKYFILMS



MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
Opens Nov. 14 (Wed.) @ AYALA CINEMAS
Promo period: Nov. 14 to 27, 2001
See leaflets or call 752-7880 to 83 for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3770, Series of 2001.

Harry Potter AND THE SORCERER'S STONE
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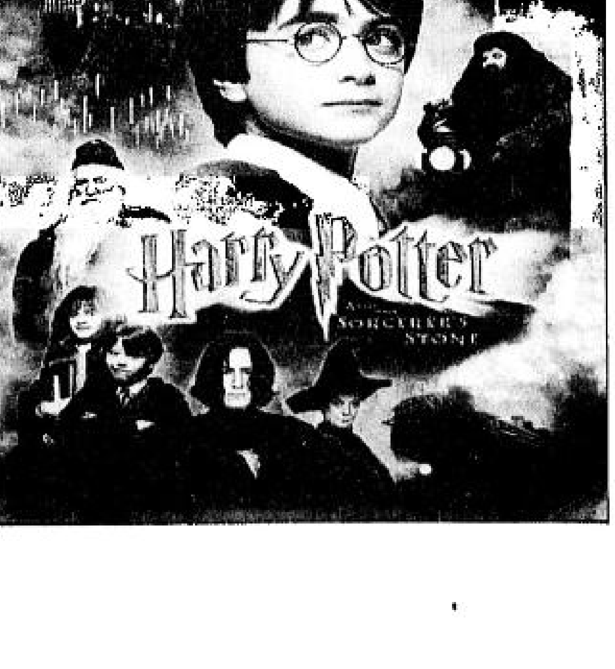

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: *Ano na ang nangyayari diyan sa* burial rites?

Field reporter: *Naghihintay kami dito* for the start of the blessing, *pero wala pa rin.*

Host: *Kailan daw ang* blessing?

Field reporter: *Dapat, kanina pa. Teka, parang—oo, ayan, sisimula na ang* blessing—*lumalapit na ang pari—ay, hindi pa rin pala magsisimula ang* blessing!

(The suspense is killing us!)

* * *

Host: So, *tuloy na ang* movie festival?

Guest: Despite all of the problems, *tuloy na tuloy na*!

Host: *Imbitahin mo naman sila na tangkilikin—*

Guest: *—Tangkilikin po natin lahat ang pelikulang pinirito*!

(Huh?!)

* * *

Host: These are hard times for our country. Do you see any way out?

Guest: We have to be hopeful.

Host: How do we do that?

Guest: We have to thanks God, because God will always draw lines from crookedness!

(*Ano daw*?)

* * *

Host: What about the government, what can it do?

Guest: We need government to come into and improvise the situation!

(That's what the government does best—improvise!)

* * *

Quiz show host: *Tama o mali*: LSD stands for *Lason Sa Daga*.

Contestant: Tama!

(Wow, Mali!)

* * *

Host: Cathay *ang dating tawag sa bayang ito*. Give the name of the country now.

Contestant: France!

(*Maling-mali*!)

* * *

Host: What is the Tagalog word for incognito?

Contestant: Kaibigan!

(*Isa ka pa*!)

* * *

Host: True or false: **Vilma Santos** is a National Artist.

Contestant: True!

(Says you!)

* * *

Host: Which word starting with K refers to a Japanese theater form?

Contestant: Kabayaki!

(*Ay*, Kabayaki!)

* * *

Host: Tell us something about yourself.

Guest: I am a semi-government employee.

(What in the world is that?)

* * *

Host: And now, the business news: Due to the negative events of the past weeks, financial analysts perceive some destabilization in the market.

(You sound pretty "destabilized" yourself!)

'Hits of 2001'

SOME of Viva Films' most popular productions will be screened on Viva Cinema at 8 p.m. every Saturday of December (on Destiny Cable Channel 21, Dream Broadcasting, Las Piñas-Paranaque Cable and Global Cable).

On Dec. 1, the film on view is "Pag Oras Mo, Oras Mo Na," topbilling **Phillip Salvador** as a policeman who has solved all of the cases assigned to him, except one—the death of his son. **Sunshine Cruz** and **Bob Soler** costar.

On Dec. 8, **Maricel Soriano** stars in "Abandonada." She plays a woman whose husband (**Edu Manzano**) drops her for another woman (**Angelu de Leon**). He leaves with their young son, so Maricel has no choice but to fight for her child.

On Dec. 15, "Ika-13 Kapitulo" casts **Anne Curtis** as an innocent child assaulted by the devil.

On Dec. 22, "Episode 2: Pedro Penduko" has **Janno Gibbs** playing a descendant of the legendary hero.

And on Dec. 29, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" stars **Robin Padilla** and **Regine Velasquez**. **Joyce Bernal** directs.

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"Globalization and Liberalization" 2
3 National Perspective
"Are We Here to Last? Challenge to the Accounting Profession"
4 "E-Business - Where are we NOW? Why does it Matter?"
"Electronic Customer Relationship Management (eCRM)" 5
6 "Realizing the Promises of Enterprise Systems of Strategy and Organization"
7 "Shared Services"
8 "Financial and Operational Strategy for Scaling up Microfinance for the Poor"

SECTORAL SESSIONS
Commerce & Industry — "Knowledge Management"
Education — "New Thrust in Accounting Education"
Government — "Supply Chain Management"
Public Practice — "The Changing Shape of Public Practice"

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- PICPA Cup Open Golf Tournament at Mimosa
- Tennis Tournament
- Target Shooting
- Open Chess Tournament
- Team Building
- TOPADA
- All Night Dancing
- Cultural Show

OTHER EVENTS
- Educator's Forum
- Tax Forum
- Symposium of Effective Financial Governance for LGU
- Demonstration Teaching
- Accounting Quiz Bowl
- Gabi ng Parangal - Awards Night
- Symposium of Philippine Development Plan "Next Stop: Central Luzon"

EXHIBITS
* Trade Exhibit
* Salute to the Great Campampangan's

BINGO SOCIAL Top Prize P500,000
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SIDE A AT VIRGIN CAFÉ

Side A band returns to the stage of Virgin Café in Tomas Morato, Quezon City. Watch the pop quintet perform their signature hits like "Forevermore," "Will I Ever," "So Many Questions," "Tuloy Pa Rin" and a lot more. The group is composed of Joey Generoso on vocals, Naldy Gonzales on keyboards, Joey Benin on lead guitar, Ernie Severino on drums and Kelly Badon on bass.

There's a career in here.

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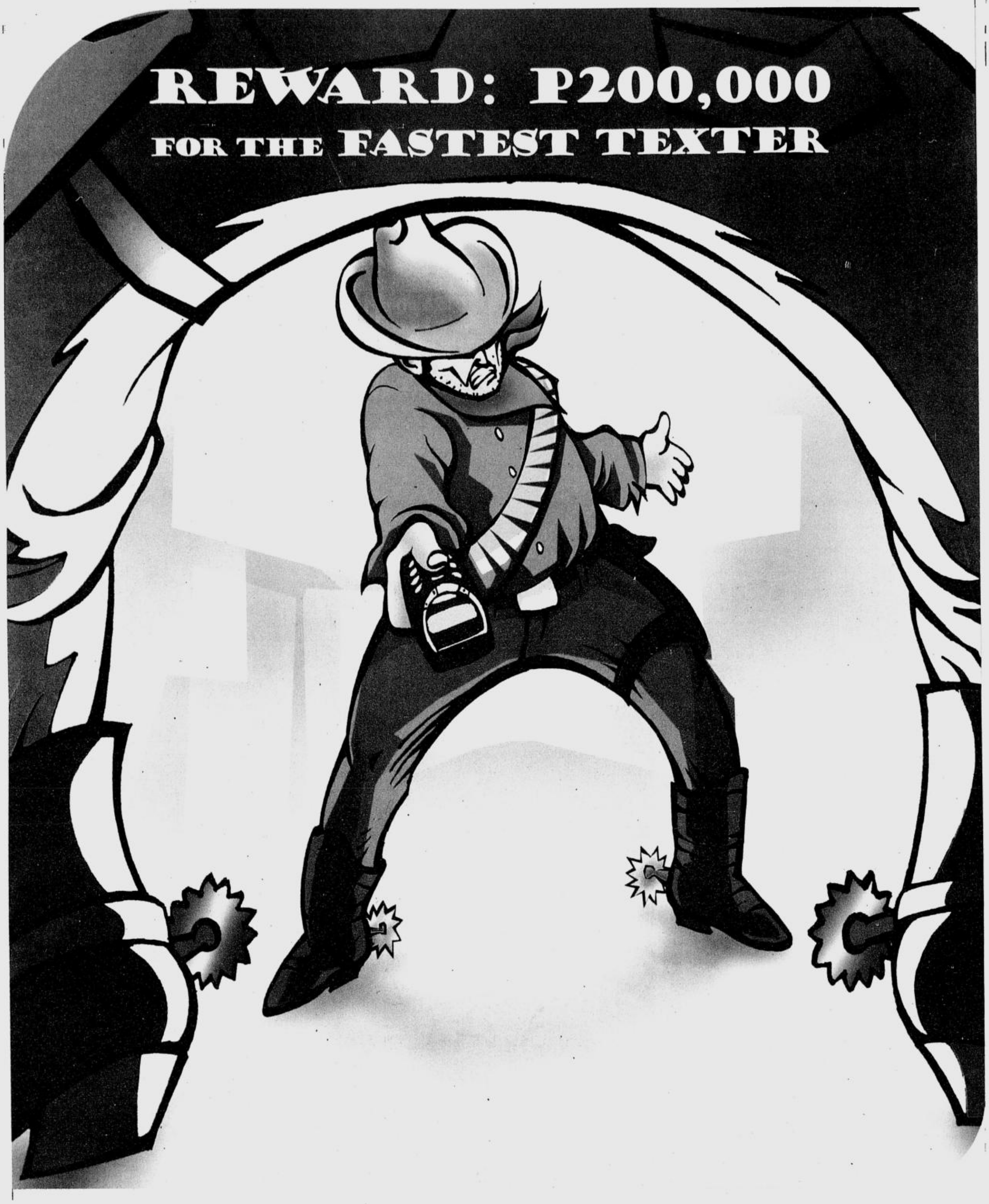

Win P200,000 cash just for texting the fastest in The Nokia Speed Text Challenge! To join, all you have to do is get your registration forms at authorized Nokia dealers and designated areas in Metro Manila. Speed text your way from the elimination round to the championship round, where you can win great prizes.

Champion : P200, 000 cash plus a Nokia 8310
1st runner-up : P100,000 cash plus a Nokia 8250
2nd runner-up: P75,000 cash plus a Nokia 6210
3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th runners-up: P5,000 cash plus a Nokia 3310
Non-winning finalists will receive P3,000 cash plus Nokia gift packs.

Registration forms will be available from Nov. 17 to Dec. 8, 2001. To qualify, you must own any Nokia mobile phone except Nokia 9000, 9110, 9210 and 5510. Present one valid ID with picture & signature & your completed registration form at any of the 4 elimination round game sites: Nov. 22, Glorietta Activity Center; Nov. 24 & 25, Alabang Town Center Town Plaza; Dec. 1 & 2, Fiesta Carnival, Araneta Center; and Dec. 8 & 9, The Strip, Katipunan. The semi-final and championship rounds will be on Dec. 15 & 16 respectively, Robinson's Place Faura Atrium. Promo runs from Nov. 23 to Dec. 16, 2001.

Join
The Nokia Speed Text Challenge

Promo valid in Metro Manila only. See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3906, Series of 2001

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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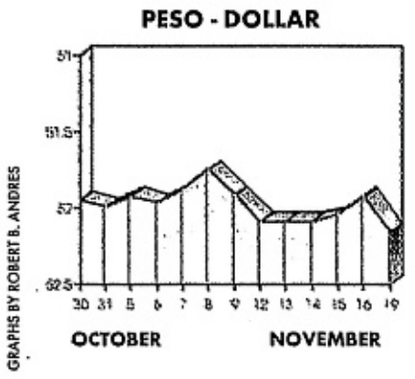
T-bill yields continue to slide

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

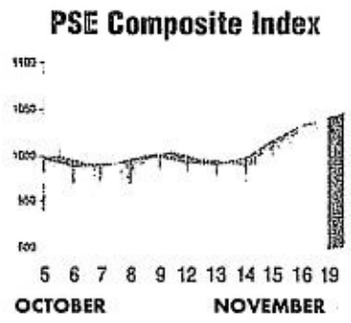
₱ 52.16 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 19, 2001

¥ 123.14 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 19, 2001

GOLD:$274.50/275.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 19, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Blue-chip interest lifts stock market



SHARES ended higher yesterday, continuing last week's rebound, as investors again nibbled on selected large-caps seen offering good value, traders said.

The main index closed at its highest level since Oct. 8 and has now gained 4.8 percent since the end of last month.

"Follow-through buying still persisted this morning and was concentrated on selected large-caps," AsiaSec Equities analyst Oliver Plana said.

Positive developments in Afghanistan, the end of the nine-month results season, and improved performances in regional equity markets have given investors some comfort, traders said.

Equitable PCI Trust portfolio manager Edison Yap cautioned, however, that after three days of gains, the market may be due for a temporary correction on Tuesday.

"We have been up for three days now so we must be due for some kind of weakness," Yap said.

The main index closed up 8.68 points, or 0.84 percent, at 1,042.02.

Turnover eased to P419.23 million from P463.06 million on Friday. *Reuters*

(See stock market report on Page B4)

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

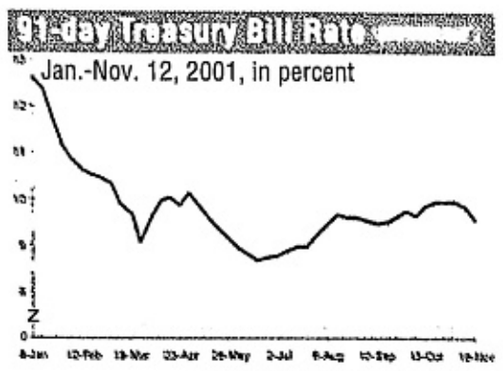
YIELDS of treasury bills fell by nearly three-quarters of a percentage point for the second straight week yesterday and dragged the 6-month and one-year bills to their four-month lows as the fixed-income market anticipated a central bank reduction of the 20-percent reserve requirement.

The 91-day treasury bill rate went down by 0.28 percentage point to 9.525 percent, its lowest level since September, while the yields of the 6-month and one-year bills fell by 0.705 point to 10.997 percent and by 0.611 point to 11.981 percent.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said that the government's borrowing rates took their cue from positive developments on the US war against terrorism as well as encouraging news on declining local inflation rate, a likely cut in the bank reserve requirement, and unwavering assurance that the budget deficit would be met.

"All factors point to declining interest rates and hopefully, the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) could ease its overnight rates some more. I think with these developments, the 91-day rate would move closer to 8.5 percent by early next year," the treasurer said.

Traders said banks and big investors rushed



SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, BUREAU OF TREASURY

to place their money in government securities yesterday at lower yields because of widely circulated reports that the BSP would cut the 20-percent reserve requirement very soon by as much as two percentage points.

Offers for the three tenors reached P11.5 billion, but the Treasury only accepted a programmed level of P3.5 billion. Edeza said the government would allow banks to load up on more treasuries through a tap facility or over the counter amounting to as much as P2.5 billion in the coming weeks.

A trader from a foreign bank said that central bank officials had been calling treasury heads of banks as far as Singapore to solicit feelers on a possible cut in reserve requirement, a move that would free up about P13.5 billion in liquidity for every percentage point cut.

A market awash with cash normally leads to lower interest rates.

Traders agreed that while the fixed-income market remained concerned that the P145-billion budget deficit target would not be met, a likely easing in the reserve requirement following a half-a-percentage point cut in the BSP policy rates two weeks ago should help address part of the uncertainties.

Edeza said that Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin had vowed to keep the deficit within the target at all cost.

In the first quarter next year, the Bureau of Treasury had announced that the government would issue P28 billion worth of treasury bonds and bills every month from January to March.

The plan, based on the borrowing program of the treasury, was to raise P4 billion from the weekly auction of treasuries.

"If we prove that we could contain the deficit this year, we would have an easier time next year. They would have more confidence that we could rein in the deficit," the treasurer said.

JANUARY-OCTOBER

BOI investments hit P100B

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE BOARD of Investments has surpassed its full-year target of P100 billion last month but it remains doubtful whether it will sustain this strong investor interest up to next year.

The BOI reported that investments reached P100.9 billion in the first 10 months this year, up 177.58 percent from P36.35 billion during the same period last year.

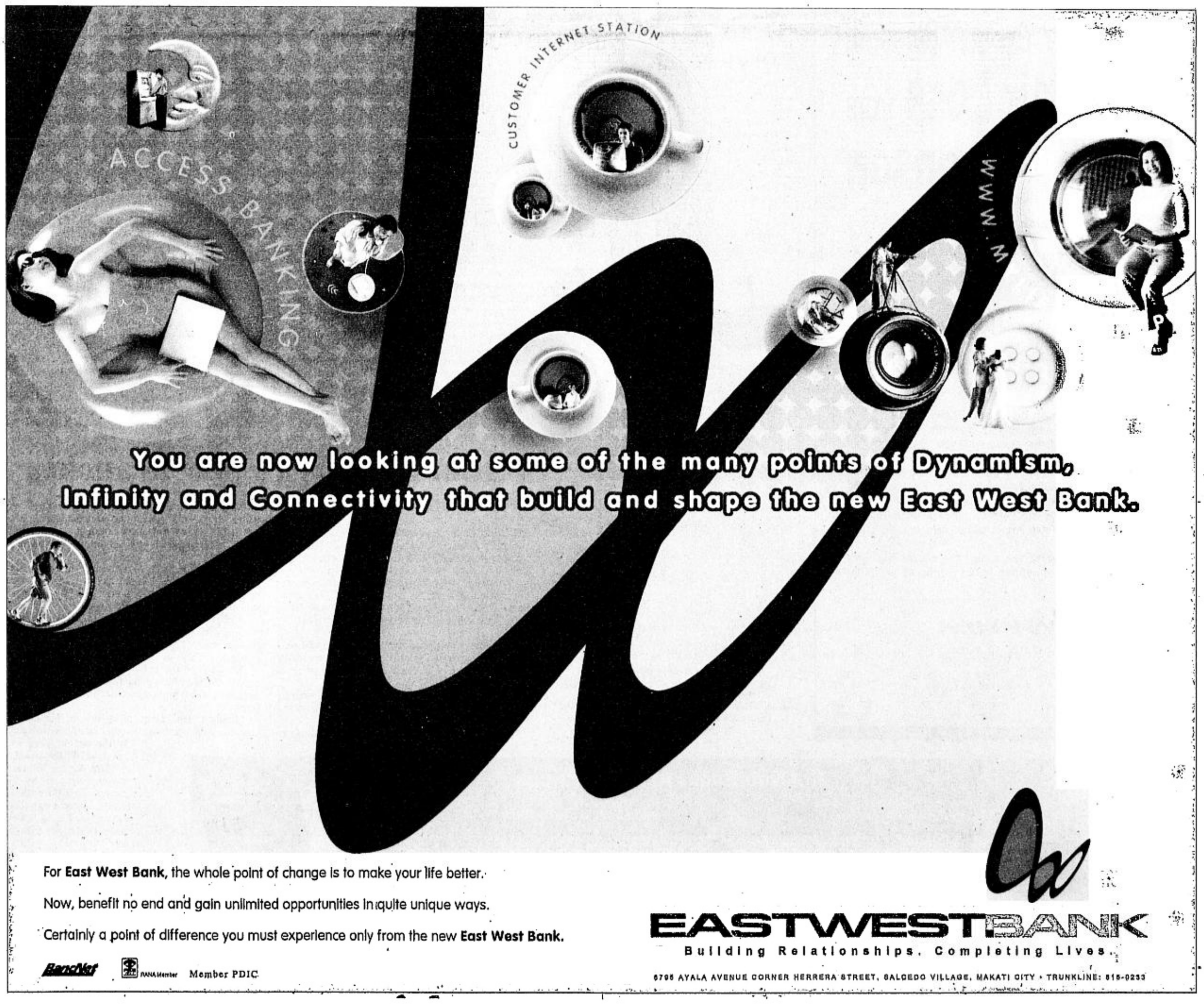
Investments based on equity climbed 385 percent to P64.24 billion from January to October this year from P13.26 billion a year ago. Local investors led the investment upsurge as they accounted for 71 percent of total equity investments with P45.69 billion, up 513 percent from last year. Foreign equity investments rose 220 percent to P18.55 billion.

The top foreign investors during the period were Singapore (P9.41 billion), United States (P2.84 billion), Japan (P1.48 billion), Australia (P1.32 billion) and Sweden (P730 million).

The top investments made during the period were in information and communication technology (ICT)—Globe Telecom Inc.'s P39.728-billion expansion; Smart Communications Inc.'s P17.102-billion expansion; Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.'s P8.17-billion expansion; and Unisys Public Sector Services Corp.

The BOI has registered more than double the P43.61 billion in investments the agency tallied last year, the lowest in 12 years, as foreign and local investors avoided the Philippines due to the allegedly corrupt and inept leadership at Malacañang.

But most of these investments were made in the first six months this year and inflows have substantially slowed down during the second half this year, a trend that is likely to continue through next year.



Atlas, Chinese mining firm defer $120-M venture

By Christine A. Gaylican

ATLAS Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. and state-run China Nonferrous Metals Corp. have set aside plans to sign a $120-million joint-venture agreement because of a diplomatic snag.

In an interview, Bureau of Mines and Geosciences director Horace Ramos said China Nonferrous had yet to iron out a "diplomatic arrangement" with the Philippine International Trading Corp.

"It is understandable as a government-owned company would come in with a capital," Ramos said.

The PITC has yet to formally recognize the entry of China Nonferrous, he explained.

He said Atlas Consolidated and China Nonferrous did sign an agreement "that would attest that (they) are still interested to help rehabilitate and reopen the Toledo copper mine in Cebu."

Atlas Consolidated's Toledo copper mine was the largest in Asia until operations were suspended in 1994 after it became flooded during a typhoon.

The mine remained closed because of lack of investments during a period of low copper prices.

Alakor Corp. of trader Alfredo Ramos has taken over Atlas Consolidated from the group of former San Miguel Corp. chief Andres Soriano III.

The listed mining firm said in a report obtained by the Inquirer that Toledo's rehabilitation would require over P4.2 billion, and that it expected to fund the mine's reopening through "a combination of copper concentrate off-take agreements, equity placements and bank loans."

In 1996, a local group, Minoro Mining and Exploration Corp., agreed to a debt-for-equity swap agreement to rehabilitate and reopen Toledo but later withdrew after the Asian currency crisis rendered it incapable of raising funds.

In its 39 years of operation, Toledo produced 667 million tons of ore, which was processed to produce copper concentrates containing 5.6 billion pounds of copper.

The mine has remaining ore reserves and resources of 881 million metric tons containing 7.9 billion pounds of copper and 5 million ounces of gold.

The copper mining firm was the subject of a much-publicized proxy war among the Coyiuto, Soriano and Ramos groups.

Atlas Consolidated is planning to diversify into non-mining businesses, including fresh construction projects and a possible e-commerce venture in China.

After its rehabilitation, Atlas Consolidated plans to list on the Australian Stock Exchange.

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Is that your final bouncer?

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WASHINGTON (via PLDT)—Maybe it's an indication of the size of our blip in the radar of US business. If plans do not miscarry as I write this, Gloriaetta will have only 30 minutes with George W. Bush. And their meeting takes place just right before lunch.

Is the time enough? Well, if it were a business lunch of the Makati crowd, it would be over somewhere between the handshakes and the soup.

But nobody in the presidential party can even say whether or not the White House is serving Gloriaetta some snacks. Not that she craves for American food. She is on strict diet, I heard, or is it Mike, who obviously needs it more.

Anyway, so far in this presidential promo for US investments in the Philippines, all Gloriaetta has is a promise—something like "alright, we'll think about it."

In a bold move which is unprecedented in the history of bold moves, one top US corporate executive moved that, henceforth, the Philippines is back in the radar of US investments. It's a hi-tech electronic way of saying, "we'll think about it."

* * *

GLORIAETTA is cramming her agenda on national security and the economy in this US trip. Her wish list for Uncle Sam is not longer than a mile, and even with only those 30 minutes with Pareng George, maybe she can put it across in style someday.

Also, her boys already did time in hard labor, hammering the details of whatever she and Pareng George are taking up. They did much of the work prior to this visit.

Based on US media accounts of Pareng George, however, I get the impression that he has the mental prowess of a fruit salad. If Gloriaetta hopes to put across matters of substance in their meeting, she may require an entire vacation.

Just kidding, boss! I want no visit from your "experts" or "advisers" or "consultants" or whatever who were in the Philippines to do . . . well, an "analysis."

It's just that in the shopping list of Gloriaetta, aside from military hardware, which we need for a little "analyzing" here and there, are some US government measures which she herself called "market access." Complex things! Can Pareng George get it easily?

* * *

IN the television interview, Gloriaetta prefers not to jump the gun on her delegation's talks with their counterparts in the US government. You just wait, she says.

Under the item "market access," for sure, are the concerns of this cute administration regarding our exports of garments and fruits to the United States. The US government, for instance, still imposes strict quota on Philippine garments.

But I can understand why Gloriaetta refuses to speculate on the deals that she and her boys can or cannot swing from the US government in this presidential sales call.

Pareng George himself is in a fix. Pending in the US Congress is a bill that empowers him to grant trade concessions to other countries. It serves as the carrot to those that sided with the US in its current war against, ahh, well, terrorism.

Now many in the US Congress are avowed protectionists. Pareng George must be careful, or the bill will be shot down. And Gloriaetta is after some market access, right?

And so Gloriaetta would rather not talk about it. What do you expect? She is just a guest here. She can't reveal she is asking for "full flexibility" in the US quota on garments or easier US rules on mango imports. Oops.

* * *

ANYWAY, I thought that by the questions of US executives to Gloriaetta, we could have an idea of the concerns of possible investors regarding the Philippines.

And without my ranking them, here is sampling of their concerns—infrastructure, peace and order, the exchange rate and violation of intellectual property rights.

It seems they really know a lot about what's going on there in the Philippines. Those things are also our main concerns.

* * *

TAKE the Batangas Port. No, correction please, it was not buried in the swamps of Batangas. The P2.9-billion project is caught in the political quagmire in Manila. Legal opinions of the same government office are clashing against each other. No kidding!

To think, the project aims to turn the Batangas port into a modern seaport. Hopefully, it can decongest the Manila ports. And what a relief that would be to traffic!

Last year, if I remember right, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) awarded the contract to a joint venture of the South Korean firm Hanjin Konoike. The PPA said it was the "lowest responsive bidder." But who listens to the PPA, anyway?

But another group, the Shimizu-FF Cruz consortium, claimed it submitted the lowest bid. Sure, the PPA said, but it also did not follow the bidding rules.

There's no deal until a top politico or a top technocrat, plus their relatives and friends, actually approve the deal. In the Philippines, apparently, rules are not meant as regulation. They are only . . . well, suggestions.

* * *

IN the case of the Batangas port, the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) opined that the Shimizu-FF Cruz consortium indeed broke the rules.

During its last days, however, under heavy political pressure, the administration of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band . . . decided to throw away all the findings of the PPA and OGCC. It reversed everything, in short.

Thus the contract went to the Shimizu-FF Cruz consortium. *Ah, basta!* That was what Wrist Band wanted then, perhaps to appease the Makati crowd.

When this cute administration came into power, the Korean group thought it would get justice. Wait a minute, said the new OGCC. Without much ado, the OGCC reversed its earlier opinion.

Last Oct. 8, PPA general manager Alfonso G. Cusi told Hanjin Konoike that the PPA was awarding the contract to Shimizu-FF Cruz.

Of course the Koreans believe that the PPA reversed itself only because the OGCC reversed itself. How come? Well, the new OGCC opinion came about through the "initiative" (i.e. use of force) of Shimizu-FF Cruz. Just like a true bouncer.

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Ms. Helen Sia
Svenson Manager

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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

Neda OKs 5 projects worth ₱16.5B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority has approved five new infrastructure projects worth P16.5 billion that were designed to strengthen small- and medium-scale enterprises, intensify agricultural productivity, bolster power generation in Mindanao and curtail illegal fishing activities in the country.

Topping the list is the P12.8-billion package for the Development Bank of the Philippines' proposed Information Technology and Industry Support Loan facility to be funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

DBP's industry support loan is composed of two components such as relending and private placement. The first component was estimated to P10.24 billion, while the private placement component would entail P2.56 billion.

The relending program will prioritize SMEs although the bank may accommodate large enterprises provided their projects are developmental in nature and are among the government's preferred investment areas such as those in the Board of Investment's Investment Priorities Plan and the projects declared priority by the President during her State of the National Address.

Under the program's private placement component, DBP may use the Japan Export Import Bank 5 (Jexim 5) facility for bond placements of government-owned and -controlled corporations in accordance with the Department of Finance's financing program. DBP may use the balance for private placement.

The Neda Board also approved the irrigation component of the Rehabilitation of the Cagayan Integrated Agricultural Development Project (CIADP). The P396-million project involves the rehabilitation and restoration of pumping stations to increase crop production. The project will be financed under Japan's General Grant Aid Program.

To augment the power generation capability of the Mindanao Power System, the Neda Board also approved the P508-million Rehabilitation of Agus I Hydroelectric Power Plant Project. The Agus I Hydroelectric Power Plant is situated in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur.

In December 1999, while in operation, a fire broke out resulting in an extensive damage in the Agus I plant. Among the equipment destroyed by the fire were power cables, switch gears, low voltage service transformer, common electrical equipment and control systems, the control room, and other appurtenances.

The rehabilitation of Agus I is expected to help meet the projected increase in power demand in Mindanao.

A project to increase agricultural production through the use of fertilizer was likewise approved by the Neda Board. The P665-million Request for Commodities under the 25th tranche of the Increase in Food Production Program involves the importation of some 110 thousand metric tons of ammonium sulfate (fertilizer).

Also, the Neda Board approved the P2.03-billion Acquisition of Fisheries Patrol Vessels for the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) System Project to be funded by the Spanish government. Under this program, the government will acquire 14 units of patrol vessels to be deployed in areas found to have extensive illegal fishing activities. These include: Puerto Princesa City; Palawan; Batanes; Tacloban City; Cebu City; Zamboanga City; San Fernando, La Union; and Casiguran Bay, Quezon.

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PSBank opens 12 new branches

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank, the thrift banking arm of the Ty family's Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., yesterday opened 12 branches to bring its total branch network nationwide to 100.

The bank is scheduled to open another branch soon. The new branches represent the 13 branch licenses PSBank acquired from Global Business Bank, a regular commercial bank also under the Metrobank group.

PSBank's new president, Pascual Garcia III, said the branch expansion would continue in line with the bank's strategy to increase its consumer or retail banking activities.

"The 100 branches is an initial step in a program to bring us closer to the markets we choose to serve," Garcia said.

PSBank also aims to beef up its auto lending operations by financing the acquisition of 6,000 vehicles next year. This year, the auto industry expects to sell 75,000 automobiles or half of the 150,000 sold at the height of the country's boom years in the mid-1990s.

In line with its target to become the consumer and retail bank of choice, PSBank has also offered a new product called Prime TD, a high-yielding five-year time deposit bearing tax-free interest.

PSBank's newest branches are in Katipunan, Timog, St. Ignatius, New Manila, Parañaque, Novaliches, Quezon Ave., Davao, Cebu (2 branches), Laoag and Cagayan de Oro.

The bank posted an 84-percent increase in net income to P134 million in the first nine months of this year from P72.6 million recorded in the same period last year.

"Prudent management of interest margin and increase in other operating incomes contributed largely to the encouraging net revenue," PSBank said.

The bank's interest income went up by 21 percent to 1.66 billion, while interest expense accelerated at a lower pace of 16 percent to P779 million.

The bank noted that the rise in profits was achieved despite the allocation of P103.5 million for loan loss provision. The amount was 118 percent more than the P47.5 million set aside during the same period last year. The bank's non-performing loan ratio is currently at slightly more than 10 percent.

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Gov't to issue $250-M bonds for overseas workers

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE GOVERNMENT has decided to tap the huge savings of overseas Filipino workers by issuing early next year as much as $250 million worth of three-year bonds in denominations as small as $100.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza yesterday announced the new borrowing would not only give overseas workers and Filipino residents abroad an investment outlet but would also enable the government to access cheap funds.

The OFW bonds tentatively named GMA for "generally market acceptable" borrowing would be handled by Land Bank of the Philippines, First Metro Investment Corp., and foreign bank HSBC.

"The bonds would give OFWs an opportunity to invest in a risk-free instrument where their principal is protected for three years and returns are assured," Edeza said.

An OFW can invest as little as $100 each and the bond comes with a health and accident insurance plus a chance to win in a raffle. Edeza admitted that investors would get a slightly lower-than-market yield but this was because the underwriters were organizing a seed fund that would pay for the insurance premium and the raffle.

Since the yield to investors is lower, the government is thus assured of paying a cheaper interest on its borrowings.

Edeza said the proceeds of the bond issue would be used by the national government to finance its budget next year and help contain the deficit to P130 billion or lower.

He said retail and institutional investors, provided these are working or residing abroad, could buy the bonds. The treasurer said investors could use their regular remittance channels to purchase the bonds.

The government, he said, was anticipating OFWs to gobble up the bonds since the overseas workers were able to remit between $6 billion to $7 billion yearly to their families in the country.

Edeza said the new borrowing would help the government raise $1.4 billion in funds for next year.

Of this amount, he said the government has so far finalized deals worth as much as $750 million coming from a $250-million private bond issue to be handled by Credit Suisse First Boston and as much as $500 million from a yen bond issue.

Imports slump 16% in September on weak demand

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE COUNTRY'S import bill dropped by 15.9 percent in September—the worst contraction since December 1998—as weakening consumer confidence here and abroad further soured the appetite for foreign-made goods and raw materials.

It was the third consecutive month that the payment for imports had dropped, first by 2.2 percent in August and 0.6 percent in July. Analysts said a further slowdown would be seen in the next two months as the full impact of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States would be felt.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the country's expenditures for imported goods in September declined to $2.5 billion from $2.97 billion from the same period last year.

As the export receipts stood at $2.73 billion, the country was still able to chalk up a modest balance-of-trade surplus of $232 million during the period.

Payments for electronics and components continued to fall by 30.4 percent during the period, accounting for 18.7 percent of the total import bill.

Purchases of mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials ranked second with a 12-percent share but tumbled by 21.4 percent from the same period last year.

The bill for telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery, which has managed to buck the downtrend in previous months, started to succumb to the slowdown as well. Purchases of such items accounted for the third biggest share in the total import bill but declined by 3.6 percent.

Overall, purchases of raw materials and intermediate goods, consisting of unprocessed raw materials and semi-processed raw materials, accounted for 39.3 percent of the total bill but aggregately went down by 12.4 percent.

Capital goods led by telecom equipment and electrical machinery, which accounted for 37.2 percent of the total bill, likewise declined by 15.8 percent while purchases of mineral fuel and lubricant as well as consumer goods also slowed down by 21.4 percent and 12.7 percent, respectively.

Japan and the United States continued to be the country's biggest source of imports, accounting for 20.3 percent and 15 percent of the total bill.

Other top sources of imports were South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, People's Republic of China, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Iran.

Westlink Global Equities head of research James Lago said: "We haven't seen the worst of this. The full impact of the terrorist attacks will be felt in the next two months. This is in line with the slowdown, which is happening in other countries."

Lago said the continued fall in the bill for electronics, inputs to the country's biggest exports, only reflected the continuing weak demand for high-tech products in the international market.

On the other hand, he explained that the weaker purchase of telecom and industrial equipment reflected weakening domestic demand.

"The expansion of most of the country's biggest telecom companies has been completed so there's no need for big-time investments anymore," Lago said.

AB Capital Securities analyst Jose Vistan said the slowdown was a continuation of the downtrend seen during the last few months.

"In the US and also in domestic arena, surveys on consumer confidence are showing weakness. This means weaker demand for raw materials by the local manufacturing sector and also weaker demand for the importation of finished consumer products," Vistan said.

Vistan also noted that belt-tightening measures in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks would further worsen the contraction starting October this year.

"The earliest recovery would not be seen until the latter part of the first semester of next year," he said.

COUNTRY SHARES

As of November 20, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1,350,000	1.5 M / 1,575,000*
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	720,000	750,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	300,000
CANLUBANG	-	750,000
CAPITOL HILLS	115,000	130,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	180,000	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350,000/620,000**	375,000/450,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	-	100,000/150,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	80,000*	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	180,000	230,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	500,000	Pls. call or swap
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	250,000	300,000/400,000*
MANILA GOLF CLUB CORP.	-	14M
MANILA POLO CLUB	2.6M	2,800,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	700,000/800,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	150,000/160,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	-	240,000/375,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C**/B*	350,000/600,000**	450,000*/650,000**
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	200,000/400,000**	2,150,000/425,000*
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	140,000	150,000/Pls. call*
RIVIERA A/B*	-	200,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	500,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	-	110,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	230,000/350,000*/450,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A	1,600,000	1,650,000
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	-	300,000/450,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	-	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF	370,000	375,000/750,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	600,000	650,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	170,000	185,000
WACK WACK	6M	6.8 M

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Need Lessor: Manila Golf Below P300,000 & Tat Filipinas Golf
Selling: Villas, Bellevew, Pinecrest & Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands
Lots: Eaglendge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay & Southwoods
Buying: Orchard Lot Phase 7

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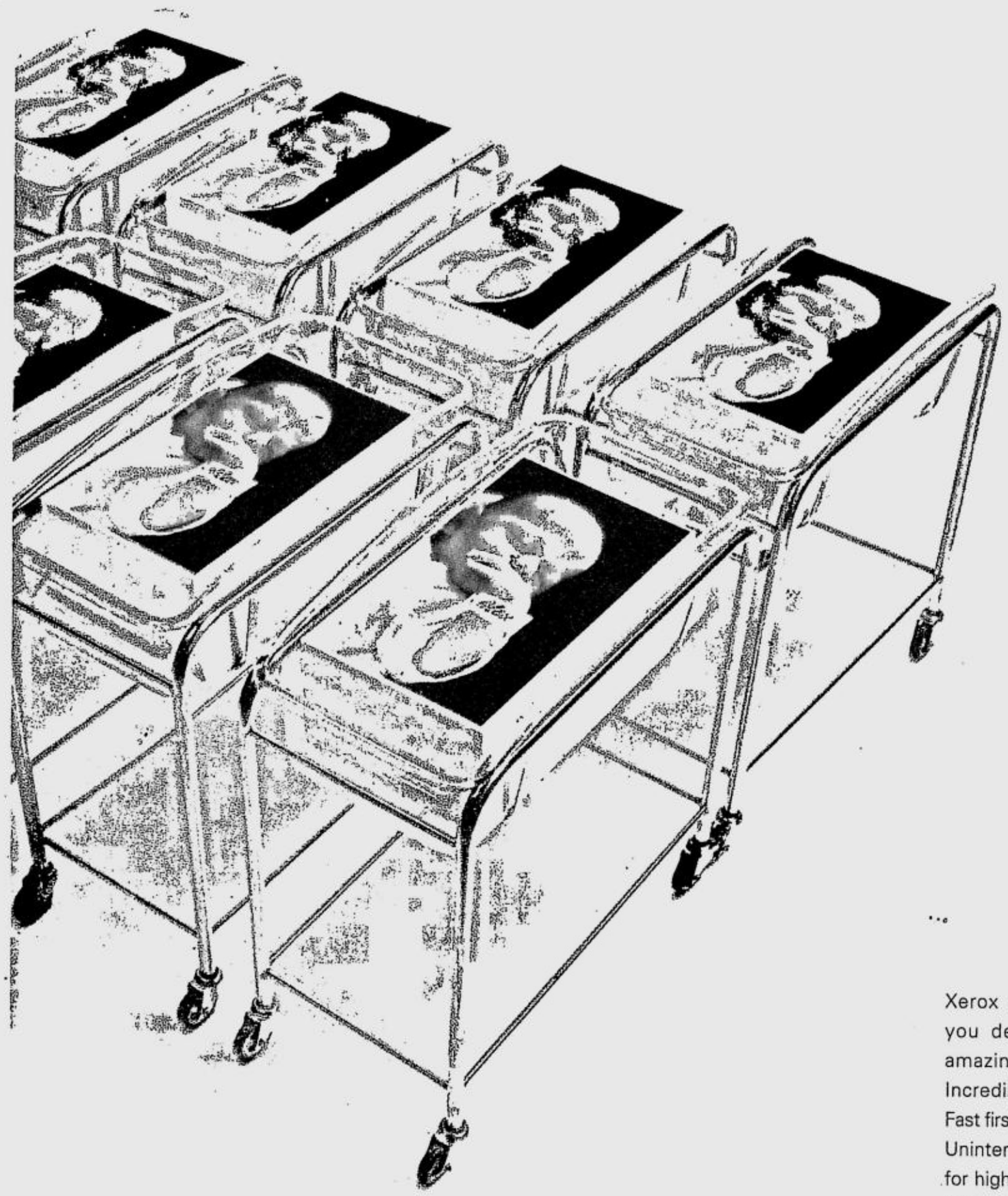

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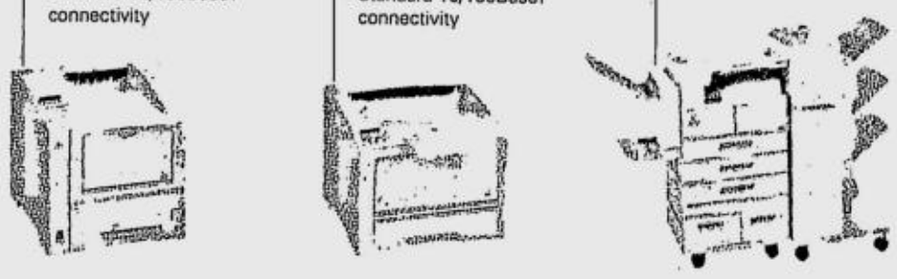

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Ayala Land to issue bonds, seen using funds for Ft. Boni

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE COUNTRY'S biggest property firm is planning to issue bonds of up to P2 billion to finance its capital expenditure, service its debt obligations and raise its permanent working capital.

In a statement submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Ayala Land Inc. said the bond issue would carry a term of five years and from a day the issue date.

The bonds will be priced at 100 percent of face value or at par, Ayala Land vice president Jaime Ysmael said. The interest rate on the bonds shall be based on prevailing market rates to be determined prior to offering via a book-building process, he added.

The bond issue was approved by the company's executive committee but was subject to the registration requirements of the SEC.

Ysmael said the bond issue would be the company's first major fund-raising exercise since it issued P6 billion worth of long-term commercial papers in 1997.

Industry observers say proceeds of the bonds may be used partly to finance the development of the 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio commercial district in case Ayala Land succeeds in acquiring Metro Pacific Corp.'s 70-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Corp.

Bonifacio Land owns 55 percent of Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., a joint venture between the Metro Pacific group and the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

"This fund raising initiative is an affirmation of the company's confidence in the long-term prospects of the real estate industry and its continuing commitment to growth. To further strengthen its strategic position in the industry, Ayala Land, thus, seeks to increase liquidity in response to current market conditions and prepare for strategic investment opportunities that may arise in the coming months," Ysmael said.

Last week, Ayala Land said it tendered a binding offer to acquire Metro Pacific's stake in Bonifacio Land. The offer lapsed yesterday.

BPI Capital Corp. has been appointed as issue manager for the bond issue.

Ayala Land closed up 5 centavos at P4.65 on Monday. The property sub-index was up 10.51 points at 460.13.

Meralco seen getting ₱0.30 staggered hike

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission will likely allow power distribution giant Manila Electric Co. to raise its rates by 30 centavos per kilowatt-hour but on a staggered basis, according to a person familiar with the issue.

The source said it was likely that the ERC would let Meralco adjust its rates gradually to ease the burden on end-consumers.

"If the ERC opts for (a six-month implementation), Meralco will be raising its rates by 5 centavos per kwh per month," he said.

He said, however, that the Lopez-controlled firm preferred to implement a one-time rate adjustment.

"That would be more acceptable since the impact on consumers would also be one-time (only)," he said.

Last month, Meralco treasurer Rafael Andrada said Meralco was expecting a further cut on its capital expenditure next year to about P4 billion as its petition for a rate hike was still not granted.

Andrada said the power distributor's capital expenditure next year might be reduced to about P4 billion from an already trimmed P6 billion.

Another Meralco official said the power firm's five-year capital expenditure program provides for a budget of at least P8 billion a year.

"(A P4-billion) capex would be enough to finance only our maintenance program," Andrada told reporters.

He said the fund could not cover other expenses, such as computers, new buildings and sub-stations.

This would also limit Meralco's capability to service new customers within its franchise area, he added.

Meralco services about 3.78 million customers.

"If we do not have enough resources, our capacity to meet the demand of the public will be affected," Andrada said.

Also, he said Meralco was set to ask next year the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank for a waiver on its obligation to maintain a return-on-rate-base of at least 8 percent.

Hatchasia opens IT center

THE HATCHASIA Globalcity Center is open.

The project was jointly developed by Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. and hatchasia.com Inc. early last year to address the growing demands of information technology companies for 24 hours, seven days a week with facilities with reliable power supply and dependable telecommunications system.

The Hatchasia Globalcity Center is located at the Bonifacio special economic zone at eSquare, a 25-hectare IT park. The building is minutes away from the Makati central business district and is easily accessible to both the domestic and international airports.

The buildings has a total of 24,000 square meters divided into three floors and is the only low-rise commercial office building in the Bonifacio Global City with more than 200 spaces of covered parking.

SEC, NBI raid offices of company suspected of running boiler scams

IN WHAT could possibly be the first test case of the new Anti-Money Laundering Act, the Securities and Exchange Commission is set to issue an order shutting down alleged boiler room operator Price Richardson Corp.

A team of operatives from the SEC, National Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Immigration on Friday raided three offices of Price Richardson in Makati.

SEC compliance and enforcement department acting director Tomas Syquia said that after a cease-and-desist order against Price Richardson was issued, the SEC would charge the company's officials and personnel for violating the country's Securities Regulation Code and the anti-money laundering law.

Syquia said boiler room operators could be charged under the anti-money laundering law because their activities involved illegal collection of money from their unsuspecting clients.

Price Richardson, which was incorporated only in December last year, was officially registered as an administrative service company offering clerical, bookkeeping, mailing and billing services.

However, in an investigation, the SEC found that the company's 22 personnel, who were mostly Canadian and British, were dealing in registered securities without the necessary licenses.

One of the salesmen allegedly duped his clients of more than $127,000 during a six-month period.

Price Richardson's director for operations is a certain Connie Velarde-Albert.

The modus operandi of a boiler room operator is to employ telemarketers and foreigners who, as unregistered brokers, use high-pressure sales techniques and promises of exorbitant returns on investments to fraudulently sell overseas securities.

Since the SEC and the NBI forged an agreement last April to step up efforts against boiler room operators in the Philippines, there have been five previous raids on the corporate offices of Mendez Prior, Dukes & Co. Inc., Evergreen, the Barclays group and Goldberg.

Apart from the court cases, the SEC has issued cease-and-desist orders against 21 other firms engaged in the alleged illegal sale of securities. *Elena R. Torrijos*

NOTICE OF CONTRACTOR'S LIEN
AGAINST MEGAWORLD GLOBUS ASIA, INC.

This serves as a constructive notice to the whole world of a Contractor's Lien worth P62 Million currently attached on all units of the Salcedo Park Twin Towers condominium project, located at de la Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, Metro Manila, owned by MEGAWORLD GLOBUS ASIA, INC. The Contractor's Lien exists in favor of DSM CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, by virtue of a Decision of an Arbitral Tribunal of the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission in CIAC Case No. 22-2000 promulgated on 19 October 2001, which Decision orders as follows:

AWARD

Respondent (MEGAWORLD GLOBUS ASIA, INC.) is therefore ordered to pay Claimant (DSM CONSTRUCTION & DEV. CORP.) the amount of SIXTY TWO MILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY EIGHT PESOS AND FORTY NINE CENTAVOS (P62,760,558.49) fifteen (15) days from the promulgation of this decision. Thereafter, interest of six percent (6%) shall be due on any balance remaining until the award becomes executory. Thereafter, interest of twelve percent (12%) per annum shall be applied on any balance remaining until the full amount is paid.

To protect its claim, DSM CONSTRUCTION has annotated and attached its Contractor's Lien on all Condominium Certificates of Titles of the Salcedo Park Twin Towers project.

For the protection of the public, particularly prospective buyers, notice and warning are hereby made that all transactions on the above condominium titles, by operation of law, carry an encumbrance of P62 Million in favor of DSM CONSTRUCTION which is enforceable against any and all buyers of the units until the lien is fully discharged.

(Sgd). **Atty. Wilfredo M. Garrido, Jr.**
Counsel for DSM Construction & Development Corporation
GARRIDO & ASSOCIATES LAW OFFICES
Suite 2517 Herrera Tower, Herrera Corner Valero Streets
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 892-0890; 892-0896

DISCLOSURES

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has given the **Chemphil Group** 30 more days to operate its sulfate acid plant.

* * *

VICTORIAS Milling Co. Inc. has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to appoint a replacement for Romeo Hermoso, who ceased to be the company's chief financial officer and member of the management committee as of Sept. 1

* * *

WELLEX Industries Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 14, 10 a.m., at Citibank Tower's Top of the Citi in Makati. Stockholders as of Nov. 16 are entitled to vote during the meeting.

* * *

AMETHYST Investments Inc. has acquired 9.375 million shares of **Central Azucarera de la Carlota** from **Nissho Iwai Corp.** at P5.33 each.

* * *

MRC Allied Industries Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 21, 8 a.m., at the McKinley Room of the Manila Polo Club. Record date is on Nov. 29.

* * *

MULTITECH Investments Corp. has postponed its annual stockholders' meeting scheduled for Nov. 29. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, November 19, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	1,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46.5	47	46.5	46.5	261,700
China Banking Corp.	500	500	500	500	10
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	17.5	18.75	17.5	18.75	433,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	165	170	165	170	102,000
Philippine National Bank	47	47.5	47	47.5	280,300
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	28	27.5	28	3,700
Security Bank Corp.	17	17	17	17	2,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	14.25	14.5	14.25	14.25	367,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1390	1390	1390	1390	3,450
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1115	1120	1115	1120	3,250
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp.	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	3,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	1,520,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	555	580	555	580	420
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	10,000
Pldtel	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	200,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	387.5	392.5	387.5	387.5	87,770
Ivantage Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	20,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.018	107,200,000
Power & Energy					
Manila Electric Co. B	27	27	26.5	27	1,843,300
Petron Corp.	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.2	11,747,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.38	1.46	1.38	1.38	6,287,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,500,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	230,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	79,200
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	23.5	23.75	23.5	23.75	31,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	76	76	76	76	300
RFM Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.9	1.9	2,380,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40	41	40	41	166,100
San Miguel Corp. B	51	52	51	52	200,600
Universal Robina Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	452,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	460,000
Ayala Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.45	4.45	24,568,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	80,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	30,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	200,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.52	0.52	13,300,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.1	0.11	2,870,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	240,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	22.75	23.25	22.75	23	245,100
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	50,000
Ionics Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	2,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.58	540,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.23	0.24	9,400,000
Music Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	1,250,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	4,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	10,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	28,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	14	14	14	14	315,300
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.79	0.81	0.79	0.79	450,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.5	9.8	9.5	9.8	15,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	200,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	260,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24	24	23.5	23.75	212,800
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	11	11	11	11	400
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.0048	0.0055	0.0048	0.005	177,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.6	8	7.5	8	23,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.6	4.65	4.6	4.65	6,125,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	390,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,310,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	6,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.22	1.3	1.22	1.28	9,287,000
City & Land Developers	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	6,310,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	76,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	570,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	8,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	10,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	4,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,469,210	63,944,115.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	396,041,590	275,481,285.00
PRO	29,782,000	77,883,620.00
Mining	114,780,000	1,753,250.00
OIL	5,000,000	55,600.00
GRAND TOTALS :	547,072,800	419,117,870.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	409.73	UP 4.70
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,461.72	UP 3.05
PRO	460.13	UP 10.51
Mining	938.77	DOWN 15.94
OIL	1.25	UP 0.08
All Shares Index	681.25	UP 3.94
Composite	1,042.02	UP 8.68

NO. OF ADVANCES: 31; NO. OF DECLINES: 26; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 25 NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 82; NO. OF TRADES: 2,257

CURRENCIES

Nov. 19, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.130582	1.000000	51.9940
Japan	Yen	0.009198	0.008136	0.4230
United Kingdom	Pound	1.614132	1.427700	74.2318
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.144966	0.128222	6.6668
Switzerland	Franc	0.682471	0.603646	31.3860
Canada	Dollar	0.711415	0.629247	32.7171
Singapore	Dollar	0.616054	0.544900	28.3315
Australia	Dollar	0.588569	0.520589	27.0675
Bahrain	Dinar	2.999051	2.652661	137.9225
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.301472	0.266652	13.8643
Brunei	Dollar	0.615618	0.544514	28.3115
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000094	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025440	0.022502	1.1700
UAE	Dirham	0.307893	0.272331	14.1596
Korea	Won	0.000889	0.000786	0.0409
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.884500	45.9887
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.452238	23.5137
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134841	7.0109
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453792	0.401379	20.8693
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064279	3.3421
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021926	1.1400
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000457	0.0238
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.148762	7.7347
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004412	0.2294
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005316	0.2764
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021926	1.1400
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.123083	58.3936

₱15-B Pagcor bond float hangs

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE THREE underwriters of the P15 billion worth of bonds to be sold by Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. are seeking a sovereign guarantee for the deal.

Proceeds of the proposed bond float would be used by the government to help cover the projected budget deficit of P145 billion this year.

The problem, however, is that the charter of the state-owned Pagcor bars it from securing a sovereign guarantee from the government.

Pagcor was supposed to issue soon P15 billion worth of three-, four-, and five-year bonds to be firmly underwritten by Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, and First Metro Investment Corp.

The source said this issue was delaying the transaction that the government had envisioned to proceed smoothly and had counted on to generate sufficient funds before year's end.

Sources said the government would rely on "extreme belt-tightening" measures to keep within the deficit target if the Pagcor deal would not push through at a time when revenue shortfall was already estimated to hit P16 billion this year.

Another government source said the three underwriters might settle for a guarantee from the Government Service Insurance Corp., which could serve the same purpose as a sovereign guarantee.

Poverty seen rising

OTTAWA, Canada—World Bank and IMF policymakers offered no specific new aid Sunday for the global economy in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, saying only they were considering ways to step up assistance to poor and developing nations.

The joint Development Committee of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, which met Sunday, concluded that the impact of the Sept. 11 attacks would hurt many poor and developing countries.

But it stopped short of heeding calls to quickly boost debt relief or other aid.

World Bank president James Wolfensohn said there was "no consensus" on the subject of boosting government aid to the poorest nations.

"We didn't expect people to bring their checkbooks to this meeting. We wish they had but they didn't," said Wolfensohn at the conclusion of three days of meetings of top global finance officials.

"Ministers reviewed the impact of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and their aftermath on developing countries," the communique issued by the committee said.

"They recognized that poverty in many developing countries was likely to worsen as these events have deepened the pre-existing global economic slowdown, which had already led to weaker exports and commodity prices, and have other more specific impacts."

These effects include "increased refugee movements within countries and across borders; reduced private investment flows due to increased risk aversion in financial markets; reduced tourism revenues; and increased trade transaction costs."

The committee "called for further enhancing the collaboration among the Bank Group, the IMF, the regional development banks and UN agencies, in their actions to help member-countries address these additional challenges and to strengthen social safety nets. *AFP*

WB, IMF look to avert crisis

OTTAWA—Concerned that the economic fallout from the Sept. 11 terror attacks has hit the poorest countries the hardest, World Bank and International Monetary Fund officials met to discuss debt relief and ways to reduce poverty in the developing world.

The meeting Sunday came a day after finance ministers from 19 countries and the European Union pledged to help countries at risk, including war-scarred Afghanistan and developing nations harmed by the global economic slowdown. While officials called the meeting of the World Bank and IMF policy makers a success, it produced no new steps to specifically address problems caused by economic stagnation worsened by the terrorist attacks.

With Argentina facing a possible debt default and Mexico considering an IMF line of credit designed to prevent an economic emergency, the IMF and World Bank policy makers said they would review existing programs to try to meet the challenges of a changed world.

"There is, I think, an almost uniform recognition that poverty and distress in one part of the world is poverty and distress in another," World Bank President James Wolfensohn said. "The notion of two worlds—the rich and poor, or the developed and developing world—collapsed with the World Trade Center."

A few dozen protesters demonstrated peacefully along police barricades outside the meeting, in contrast to the hundreds who marched through downtown streets on Saturday. Fifty protesters were arrested over the weekend during marches and scuffles with police, who fired rubber bullets, tear gas and pepper spray Saturday when some demonstrators pushed through the barricades. *AP*

FOREIGN BRIEFS

Oil price slump timely

LONDON—The slump in oil prices triggered last week by a row between major world crude producers over output could provide a timely boost to the struggling global economy, according analysts.

Crude prices fell some 15 percent last week—bad news for the world's major oil exporters locked in a nerve-wracking battle for market share, but good news for oil importing western economies that were flirting with recession.

Not that major importers like the United States, Japan and the European Union should be willing to see oil prices plunge to pitiful levels. Ridiculously cheap crude would present a new set of problems, destabilizing the Middle East and encouraging wasteful use that will aggravate global warming, analysts say.

But for now, economic managers in Washington, London and Tokyo grappling with a testing economic downturn will be happy with recent developments on crude markets. *AFP*

Sorry picture of Japan Inc.

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan downgraded its assessment of the economy Monday for the sixth straight month, as a decade-long domestic slump hurt private consumption and chances of a quick recovery fade.

"Adjustments in economic activity are becoming more severe, as the substantial decline in production is beginning to have an adverse effect on private consumption through decreases in employment and income," the central bank said in its monthly report for November.

It was the first time the bank highlighted a drop in private consumption during the current downturn.

The report painted a grim picture of the world's No. 2 economy, as exports slumped amid sluggish global demand, and private as well as public investment slipped due to the grim conditions at home.

"Moreover, private consumption seems to be weakening gradually," said the bank, in harsher words than last month when consumption was seen as "almost flat." *AFP*

Thailand told to improve

BANGKOK, Thailand—Poverty is reemerging as a serious problem in Thailand's small and middle farmers, especially those who don't hold land titles.

The report says governments can combat poverty with a wide range of interventions, including improving access to education, land reforms or tax relief. The poor should also be helped to cope with sudden loss of income as in the onset of costly health care or unemployment. Besides, the governments must increase the power of the poor by decentralizing the government and reducing corruption, the report said.

Porter, the World Bank director, said Thailand has a key advantage in fighting poverty—its tradition of family self-reliance and community-based support, "which is indeed the country's secret weapon against economic shocks." *AFP*

I extend my warmest greetings to the men and women of Pioneer Hi-Bred International on your diamond anniversary and the silver anniversary of your presence in the Philippines.

Consistent with my Administration's thrust to fully implement the modernization of our agriculture and fisheries sectors, we have outlined our government's program of action to transform this sector as a primary mover of national development. I have articulated my commitment to modernize agriculture in the Philippines and we welcome the contribution of enterprises such as Pioneer Hi-Bred International towards this end.

Indeed the assistance that your company has provided and continues to offer our farmers in terms of hybrid varieties of crops to increase productivity and improve quality over the last 25 years is heartening. Your existence indeed bodes well for the empowerment of our farmers for they are given alternatives that broaden their choices for inputs and systems suited to their needs.

On this occasion, I join our countrymen in congratulating your organization and hope that you will remain our important partner of agricultural modernization and progress in the Philippines.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

Warmest Greetings to the management and staff of Pioneer Hi-Bred International on the occasion of your company's 75th year of existence and 25th year in the Philippines.

The path towards the modernization of the country's agriculture sector takes many tracks. These include investments in rural infrastructure such as irrigation, farm-to-market roads and post harvest facilities; provision of technical and financial assistance to farm to farmers; and the continuous conduct of research and application of appropriate technologies - where the future of globally - competitive agriculture lies.

In this regard, we laud Pioneer Hi- Bred for its relentless efforts in providing research breakthroughs such as the development of corn hybrids for the past 25 years, in addition to other R&D achievements in increasing crop yield the world over.

Leonardo Q. Montemayor
Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Greetings!

Pioneer Hi-Bred International celebrates its 75th year looking forward to the next 100 years. The continuing challenge to governments around the world to provide food to a fast growing population is one that we share with passion. Our vast resources are dedicated to finding solutions to the world's crop production concerns, taking full advantage of the expertise gained from our long experience, a rich pool of germplasm and our access to the latest technologies.

In the Philippines, Pioneer celebrates 25 years of leadership in the hybrid corn industry. Since the introduction of the first hybrid seed varieties in the '70s, the average corn production yield increased three-fold from only one metric ton per hectare. Henceforth, new and better corn varieties have been developed enhancing yields to as much as ten metric tons per hectare. The substantial yield gains helped reduce our dependence on grain importations for our livestock and poultry industry requirements. Furthermore, the quality of local grain greatly improved and is far better than imported grain.

Our continuing mission is to further increase farm productivity with the application of the latest technological advances in developing new varieties adapted to Philippine conditions, and providing access to crop management systems that help farmers achieve the greatest possible profit.

I thank the Filipino corn farmers, government leaders, our dealers and most specially all our dedicated employees who are active partners working hand-in-hand towards the achievement of a shared vision: Self-sufficiency in Philippine agriculture.

Yours truly,

Jet Parma
Country Manager, Pioneer Hi-Bred Philippines, Inc.

On behalf of the DuPont leadership, I would like to greet our Pioneer seed business on the occasion of its dual celebration, their 75th anniversary as a corporation at the same time 25th anniversary of its Philippine operations. Pioneer represents a key business for DuPont not only as one of our revenue streams but more importantly it has brought biology into the technology discovery efforts of our company.

The highly dedicated Philippine operation team has all the elements of success that will contribute to the sustainable growth of DuPont in the Philippines through timely delivery of its products and services and also through education and training, and various community support activities.

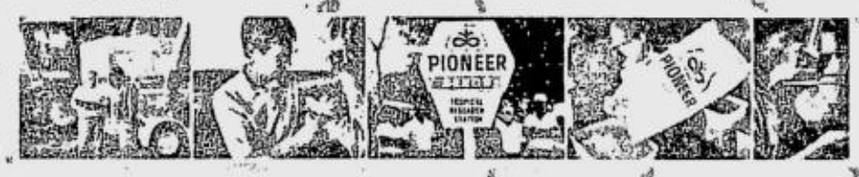
Congratulations and wish the whole team continued success!

Ramon S. Abadilla
Managing Director, DuPont Philippines

PIONEER®
A DUPONT COMPANY

CELEBRATING A LEGACY OF VALUES FOR FARMERS IN THE PHILIPPINES

AND AROUND THE WORLD



Pioneer Hi-Bred celebrates this year a twin milestone, as it marks its 75th anniversary as a company, and its 25th year of operations here in the Philippines.

We are an international company, with a unique combination of cultures, languages and experiences. Our technologies and business environment have changed dramatically since Pioneer was first established. But our philosophy -- our attitude toward research, production and marketing, and the worldwide network of Pioneer people -- will always remain true to the four simple statements of business policy which have guided us since our early years.

- We try to produce the best products on the market.
- We try to deal honestly and fairly with our employees, sales representatives, business associates, customers and stockholders.
- We try to advertise and sell our products vigorously, but without misrepresentation.
- We try to give helpful management suggestions to our customers to assist them in making the greatest possible profit from our products.

TECHNOLOGY THAT YIELDS. 75 PIONEER 25 TAON SA PILIPINAS ISO9002 Certified

We are pleased to extend our sincerest felicitations to our colleagues in Pioneer Hi-Bred International on the observance of your 25th Anniversary in the Philippines and 75th Anniversary of your existence worldwide.

Pioneer has truly led the way in providing top quality seed corn to more and more farmers in the Philippines who need products that have great bearing on the success of their livelihood efforts.

We take this occasion to express the gratitude of the many beneficiaries of Pioneer Hi-Bred's seed variants that have opened up previously unknown possibilities for crop cultivation in the Philippines.

MS. PAMELA CHAN
President, Philippine Seed Industry Association

It is with great pleasure that we join Pioneer Hi-Bred International in celebrating the company's Silver Anniversary in the Philippines and Diamond Anniversary of its foundation worldwide.

The advances made by the company in producing high quality and high yield seed corn for growers throughout the Philippines has redounded in major improvements in the productivity of our corn farmers that in turn, benefited the country's feed milling industry and the animal agriculture sector in general.

The service extended by this company hold much promise for the efforts to bring agriculture in the Philippines up to global standards in the years to come.

BENEDICTO G. TOPE
President, Philippine Association of Feed Millers, Inc.

FEEDMIX NUTRITION SPECIALIST · VITARICH · SARIWAnok Fresh Chicken · SAN MIGUEL FOODS, INC. · GENERAL MILLING CORPORATION · PUREBLEND FEEDS TAMA ANG TIMPLA – SIGURADO ANG KITAI

150 YEARS

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

A tradition of leadership

BPI named 'Philippine Bank of the Year'

The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) recently took home top honors from various international award-giving bodies. It was named Philippine Bank of the Year and Best Internet Bank for 2001 while its Express Cash card was adjudged "Best e-Card" by foreign publications.

BPI was named the "Philippine Bank of the Year" by The Banker, an international publication of the Financial Times Group of England.

The Banker cited BPI for the way it has strategically positioned itself for the next decade through a series of acquisitions and mergers and for the way it has created a fully integrated financial services group with a diversified business base in terms of markets, products, risks and revenue sources.

It also stated that BPI has relentlessly pursued a strategy centered on technology-based responses to its customer requirements, consciously nurtured a culture of excellence, and constantly adaptated to change while upholding a disciplined approach to risk management.

BPI was also named the Philippines' "Best Internet Bank for 2001" by Global Finance, a New York-based financial magazine. The magazine used as criteria the bank's breadth of product offerings, success in getting corporate and institutional clients to use online banking services, and the ability to win internet partnerships or alliances, website design and functionality and access channel diversity.

At the recent Annual MasterCard Asia-Pacific User Conference in Australia, the BPI Express Cash card was adjudged "Best Electronic Card for 2000". The Express Cash card bested other entries in the category in the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Launched last year, the BPI Express Cash is the first pre-paid electronic cash card in the Philippines and allows the cardholder to shop, drink and dine without the hassles of cash handling.

BPI is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

'Philippine Bank of the Year' — *The Banker*

Philippines' 'Best Internet Bank for 2001' — *Global Finance*

'Best Electronic Card for 2000' — Annual MasterCard Asia-Pacific User Conference, Australia

(Left to right) VP Rolando Peñaflor, Head of Specialized Lending; SVP Ricardo de la Torre, Head of Consumer Loans; Aurelio R. Montinola, President, BPI Family Bank; SVP David Sarmiento, Jr., Head of Auto and Housing Loans; and Ms. Estelita Oliveros, HR Manager, Sara Lee Philippines.

BPI Family Bank pledges P5B for gov't shelter program

BPI Family Bank recently launched Express Pabahay and Express First Home, two new special loan packages that promise the lowest rates with the longest payment terms for first time homebuyers. BPI Family Bank is setting aside P5 billion for the purpose.

Express Pabahay provides loans for as low as P250,000 and for as high as P500,000 for a house-and-lot package with a fixed rate of 13% per annum for five years. The prospective homebuyer can get as much as 80% of the appraised property value and enjoy a maximum loan term of 25 years. This results in smaller down payments and more affordable monthly amortizations.

Express Pabahay — Express First Home

Express First Home, on the other hand, provides loans ranging from P501,000 to P1.0 million with fixed rate options of 12% per annum for two years or 15% per annum for five years. The maximum loan term is 25 years for a house-and-lot purchase and 10 years for condominium or lot purchase and construction of a new house or upgrade of an existing house.

This is the first time a private bank offers housing loans to low- and middle-income employees in the private sector. It does so in support of the government's socialized housing program.

The loans are designed for SSS members who work in corporations or companies accredited by BPI Family Bank. The employees will amortize the loans via salary deductions.

BPI Family Bank is a wholly owned subsidiary and the consumer lending arm of BPI (Bank of the Philippine Islands), which is the oldest bank in the Philippines and the Far East.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION

September 30, 2001

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items	P	6,977,634,165
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		14,701,218,791
Due from Other Banks		33,252,532,571
Interbank Loans Receivable		184,000,000
Trading Account Securities (Net)		6,264,122,716
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		116,208,766,129
Loans, Discounts and Advances (Net)		168,579,324,461
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)		10,451,393,229
Assets Attributable to Insurance Operations		12,816,656,283
Other Assets (Net)		27,870,183,252
TOTAL ASSETS	**P**	**397,305,831,597**
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL		
Demand Deposits	P	29,984,752,702
Savings Deposits		211,283,475,378
Time Deposits		72,640,997,738
Total Deposits		313,909,225,818
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		359,192,638
Due to Other Banks		153,172,203
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		2,000,862,948
Bills Payable		7,981,239,983
Liabilities Attributable to Insurance Operations		10,525,845,000
Other Liabilities		13,273,635,094
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**P**	**348,203,173,684**
Minority Interest in Subsidiaries	P	292,191,766
Capital Stock	P	15,380,403,077
Surplus		32,537,359,813
Surplus Reserves		892,703,257
TOTAL CAPITAL	**P**	**48,810,466,147**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL	**P**	**397,305,831,597**
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements	P	177,959,331,109
Bills for Collection		6,126,945,345
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		6,965,710,971
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		23,839,930,563
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit		4,173,394,668
Other Contingent Accounts		2,638,301,456

BPI outperforms the industry

BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI) posted a robust P4.6-billion net income in the first nine months of the year, up 72 percent or P1.9 billion from P2.7 billion in the same period last year, BPI disclosed.

Based on its consolidate statements for the first three quarters of the year, BPI generated a return on average equity of 12.2 percent or 5.2 percent better than the comparative figure of 7 percent last year. This was a major achievement for the bank, considering that loan loss provision was maintained at last year's running rate of P1.6 billion.

Accumulated loan loss reserves amounted to P14.5 billion representing 7.9 percent of total portfolio. Its reserve cover on 90 days non-performing loans (NPL) stood at 62 percent. The published statement of condition of BPI also said that its 30 days NPL was P23.9 billion or 12.64 percent, which appears to be the lowest among the major banks.

The bank has the biggest market share in the consumer finance business through its wholly owned subsidiary BPI Family Bank. As a leading provider of housing loans, BPI Family recently launched two new special loan packages with the lowest interest rate and the longest payment terms for first time home buyers, the Express Pabahay and Express First Home. This move is in support of the government housing program.

The bank believes that lending to the consumers continues to be a promising and growing business. Moreover, the quality of its consumer loans remains sound, with default ratios of 4.5 percent for home mortgages and 3.4 percent for consumer loans.

The outstanding performance of the bank has earned it the Best Bank of the Philippines Award for 2001 from various foreign financial magazines.

BPI to merge 2 non-life insurance firms

BANK of the Philippine Islands, one of the country's biggest lenders, merged its two non-life insurance subsidiaries, FGU Insurance Corp. and FEB Mitsui Marine Insurance Co.

This is part of the bank's efforts to consolidate all the assets it acquired when it took over Far East Bank and Trust Co. in April last year, a deal that made BPI the largest bank in the country at that time.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, BPI corporate secretary Carlos Aquino said the merger of the insurance firms would still be subject to the approval of the regulators and the respective boards of the two companies.

FEB Mitsui Marine is a joint venture between Far East Bank and the Mitsui Marine and Fire Insurance Co. Ltd., Japan's third largest non-life insurer.

FGU is one of the three major insurance and reinsurance firms belonging to the BPI Financial Services Group. The other two are Ayala Life Assurance Inc. and the Universal Reinsurance Corp.

In 1999, BPI merged with Ayala Insurance Holdings Inc., the holding company of these three insurance and reinsurance companies.

FGU was founded 88 years ago when Don Antonio Melian y Pavia, Count of Perecamps, put up the first Filipino fire insurance firm, the Filipinas Compaña de Seguros, in order to break the monopoly of foreign companies in the local insurance business.

The Filipinas Compaña de Seguros linked up with two other insurance companies, Philippine Guarantee Inc. and Universal Insurance and Indemnity Co., to form the FGU Group of Companies. The letters in the group's name represent the three allied companies.

When Filipinas Compaña de Seguros' corporate charter expired in 1963 under the then 50-year legal limitation on corporate life, FGU Insurance Corp. was established to take its place.

BPI Foundation pushes youth development agenda

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI) is pushing its youth development agenda to new heights through its various educational programs.

BPI is highly acclaimed for its efficiency and stability, and it sure deserves its good name having worked at it throughout its one and a half centuries of existence. Established in August 1851, BPI is the oldest bank not only in the Philippines but also in all Southeast Asia. It thus makes it a point to protect this reputation for excellence.

However, beyond its all-consuming drive to offer customer cutting-edge banking services, BPI is deeply involved as well in purely social concerns, not least of all is the education of the youth.

In 1978, BPI established BPI Foundation Inc. (BPIFI), which in turn set up the BPI Science Awards. The purpose is to encourage young people to take up science and technology as a lifelong career.

The BPI Science Awards honors three outstanding junior and senior students from each of the country's ten top universities every year—students who pursue courses in science and technology with mathematics, physics, engineering, chemistry, biology, or computer science as major.

BPIFI and the participating academic institutions select the students for the honor. The participating institutions are Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, University of the Philippines (Diliman and Los Baños), University of Santo Tomas, St. Louis University, Silliman University, University of San Carlos, Ateneo de Davao University, and Xavier University.

So far, 340 students have been recognized for researches made on agriculture and farming, computer hardware and software development, electronics, biology, and the environment.

The awardees get an Express Teller account or Express Cash Card with a P20,000 deposit and a plaque for recognition. They also receive the option to join the BPI Officer Training Program and become a junior officer of the bank.

Apart from the BPI Science Awards, BPIFI also runs the bank's Information Systems Study Plans, a study-now-pay-later scholarship program for college graduates who wish to specialize in computer mainframe programming; and other scholarship programs and maintains professorial chairs in a number of colleges and universities.

BPIFI also helps in the social and spiritual development of the community, a term defined as the town or city where it operates, or, on a larger scale, the nation. It is through this vehicle that the bank conducts countless medical and dental missions all over the country, especially in communities that suffered from floods and landslides, earthquakes, droughts, and other natural calamities.

BPI Card's frequent user privileges

USING your BPI Credit Card has never been as rewarding as this. You've experienced its one-of-a-kind feature of two credit line-in-one card advantage. The first credit line is the ordinary credit line which you use for purchases at the drugstore, gas station or grocery.

The second credit line, called Special Installment Plan (S.I.P.), is popular for letting you purchase high-ticket items. The S.I.P. is the favorite of cardholders attending BPI Card's equally popular Madnesses or installment fairs.

While your charge your purchases to your BPI Credit Card, you also get to claim a prize for using your BPI Express Credit or BPI MasterCard. For as low as 250 points, you can take home a prized selection. This is BPI Credit Cards' Frequent User Privileges 4 and it's bigger and better than ever!

Go higher and you and your whole family (yes, this promo welcomes the whole family, from dads to babies!) can indulge yourself with choices such as home appliances, office suppliers, personal accessories, leather goods, educational materials, gift certificates, toys, sports and travel.

You can make your choices from the Frequent User Privileges catalogue, a full-color booklet devote entirely to your rewards. If you still don't have the catalogue or have further inquiries, just call 89-100 or visit www.bpi.com.ph for more information.

Every P200 purchase earns you one point, so the more you charge, the more points you get.

Point accumulation started on your May 2001 statement cut-off date and ends until your January 2002 statement cut-off date.

Indeed, BPI Credit Card's fully-charged-for-value quality has produced more rewarding perks.

BPI E-Credit, another first from your BPI Card

BPI MasterCard, your fully-charged for value card has once again taken a big leap in introducing to the market the first and only virtual account known as the BPI E-Credit. A credit card facility that makes online shopping virtually easy. It is a feature designed solely for Internet purchases. No need to worry about Internet hackers for the BPI E-Credit account will be a sublimit of the BPI Mastercard's regular credit limit. This will surely give the consumers their well-deserved peace of mind and the convenience right at their own fingertips.

The BPI E-Credit account will be issued through a reference device with information similar to that of a physical card except that it will not bear the following: a MasterCard hologram, a magnetic stripe, a signature panel and embossing. This will prevent the reference device to get presented for over-the-counter credit card payments.

Online transactions may be transferred to SIP (Special Installment Plan) via the Balance Transfer option. Plus, it also gets to earn Frequent User points. Settlement of e-purchases can be done conveniently with the rest of your BPI MasterCard bills.

What makes the BPI E-Credit Account distinct is that, no other major card issuer has developed such a virtual account in the industry. Although others may claim that they have paved the way for payment gateways, still, BPI Card has managed to go beyond the limits and break the barriers between the physical world and cyberspace shopping with the BPI E-Credit account.

BPI E-Credit account, only from the Bank of the Philippine Islands, 150 years of innovative banking... 150 years of banking leadership.

Interested customers may call the BPI Expressphone at 89-100, fax their enrollment forms at 898-9499 or simply log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com/e-credit.

Join the Smart Shopper Xmas Winner promo

FOR THIS SEASON of giving, the BPI Express Teller's Express Payment System (EPS) sure comes in handy. When shopping for gifts, the EPS allows you to get the full sale price even when you're carrying cash. The EPS is so convenient you can go straight to the store and make purchases. You don't have to line up at the ATM just to withdraw.

While you're at it, the EPS is also showing you why this is also a season of receiving: the Smart Shopper Christmas Winner promo. Every P1,000 purchase entitles you to one raffle number.

That means you get the chance to receive P1,000 everyday—including the P100,000 grand prize! The more you shop, the more chances of winning!

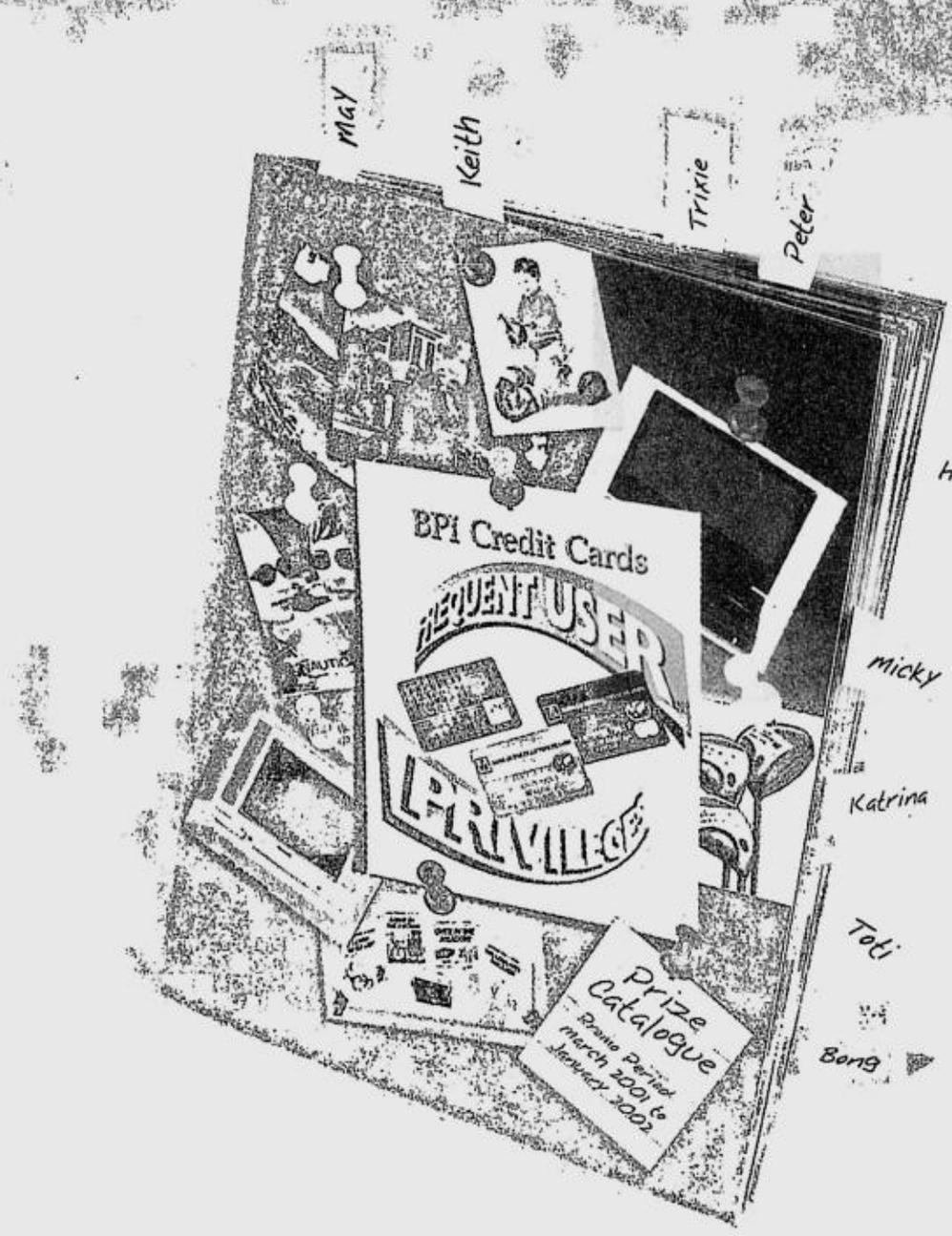
This promo is open to all BPI, BPI Family Bank Express Teller cardholders and BPI Direct ATM cardholders who use the EPS from Oct. 15, 2001 to Jan. 6, 2002.

Every P1,000 worth of EPS purchase in a single EPS transaction receipt qualifies you to one computer-generated raffle number.

There will be three winner of P1,000 cash everyday from Oct. 15, 2001 to Jan. 6, 2002. The grand draw will be on Jan. 9, 2002 where there will be three winners of P100,000.

When shopping, remember to use your EPS and experience a truly rewarding holiday season.

BPI Card



All you need to finish your Christmas list.

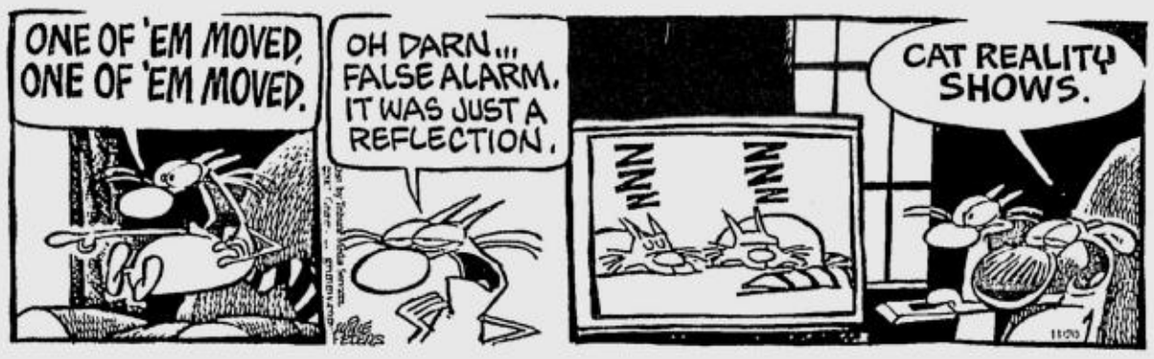
Why shop with cash when you can complete your Christmas list with your BPI Credit Cards' Frequent User points? With the wide range of items in the Frequent User Catalogue, you can do your shopping conveniently and for FREE! So keep carrying your BPI Credit Cards whenever you go shopping this season and earn more points for gifts you can give away this Christmas, or on that next special occasion. That is, if you don't end up keeping them for yourself! So hurry! You can earn Frequent User points until January 2002. Prize redemption ends on March 31, 2002.

JUST ONE OF THE MANY WAYS BPI CREDIT CARDS LETS YOU CHARGE INTO CHRISTMAS!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0687 Series of 2001

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS



A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

ANIMAL CRACKER

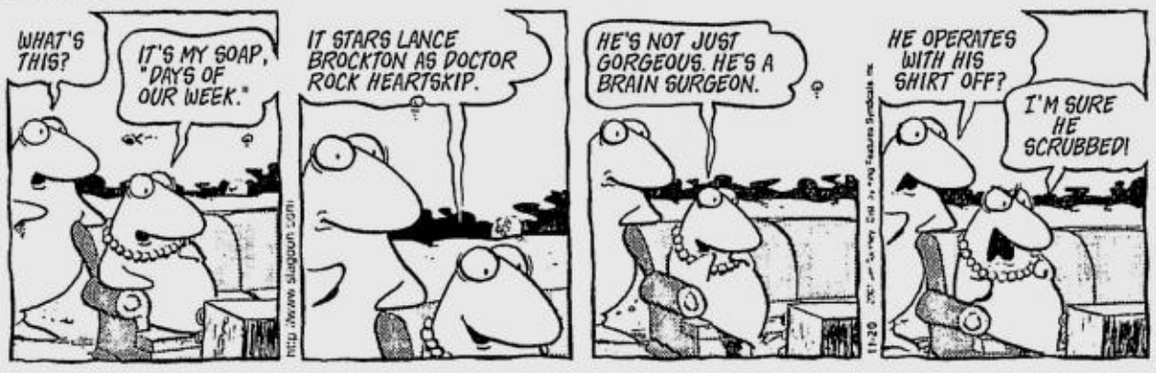
BY FRED WAGNER

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY



SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dick Smothers, Judy Woodruff, Richard Masur, Sean Young, Veronica Hamel, Duane Allman

Happy Birthday: It's time to stop viewing your cup as half-empty. Having a positive outlook will help you reach the goals you've set. Your talent and expertise will pay off if you focus. You will gain self-confidence in groups that will help you expand your awareness and knowledge. Your numbers: 5, 11, 24, 31, 33, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You know what you want and how to get it. People will grant you favors, but don't take them for granted. Direct your energy wisely. Use your creativity and entrepreneurial skills to discover new methods of getting things done.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your sensitivity today shouldn't prevent you from completing your work. Forge ahead. Focus on what you want to accomplish and refrain from judging others.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's been too long since you did something nice for yourself. Make plans to fulfill your dreams. Trips, educational pursuits or projects will lead to wonderful discoveries.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Concentrate on building a more secure financial future. Luck is with you, so take advantage of any opportunity that comes your way. Don't hesitate or all will be lost.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you're in a romantic mood, you are likely to find love. Pleasure trips will be fabulous because you'll get some much-needed rest and meet some very special individuals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't look now, but you're about to receive a pat on the back for a job well done. Your uniquely creative talents have caught the eye of someone who can help further your objectives.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You've put in the time and effort and now can reap the rewards. Begin new endeavors, although some family members are not as accepting as you have been. Treat yourself; you deserve it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll have difficulty talking about your problems. See what a neutral person or casual acquaintance has to say. Redecorating or doing your household chores will prove worthwhile.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Friends or relatives may give you a hard time. If someone tries to put demands on you, refuse to give in or depression is likely.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep your thoughts to yourself. Be blunt and tell anyone who is meddling in your affairs to stop it. Focus on your career where you can make positive gains.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You've got the discipline to turn things around. Don't let depression stand in your way. Pick yourself up and start again. You need to get out with friends who are positive and supportive.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get organized and prepare to put your plans into motion. If you don't make the effort, no one else will.

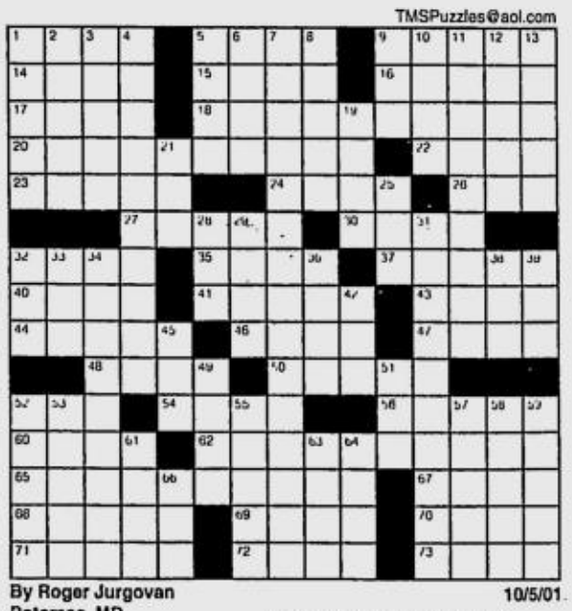
Birthday Baby: You are curious, cute and loyal to loved ones. You need to do what's right and will always lend a helping hand. You are hard-working, focused and eager to reach your goals.

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



ACROSS
1 Deceptive appearance
5 Silent performer
9 Digging tool
14 Copter starter?
15 Hebrew lyre
16 Window on a corbel
17 Ladd or Greenspan
18 Flesh-eaters
20 This puzzle's theme
22 Pianist Hess
23 Shop
24 Writer Dinesen
26 DDE's opponent
27 Bricklayer
30 Playwright David
32 Lucy's husband
35 Work units
37 "__ Bulba"
40 Yoked pair
41 Arizona city
43 Mature
44 Courting man
46 Clumsy oaf
47 Singer McEntire
48 Bear of the sky
50 I give up!
52 Everyone
54 Shortened wd.
56 First name of 26A
60 Chicago slugger Sammy
62 Prohibited ensemble?
65 Prognosticator
67 Part of A.D.
68 Currently occupied
69 Cross letters
70 Banister
71 Show-biz notable
72 Self-images
73 Passes away

DOWN
1 Persian rulers
2 Spartan serf
3 Texas mission
4 Underage collier?
5 Speed-of-sound measure
6 Aoki of the Senior PGA
7 Wake before noon?
8 Sea eagles
9 Part of USSR
10 Senior dance
11 Well-ventilated nest?
12 Tractor maker
13 Maxwell and Schlaparelli
19 Danube feeder
21 Shell-game item
25 Krazy Kartoon Karacter
28 Fixed
29 Hurler Hershiser
31 Blackballed poet?
32 Part of DJIA
33 Outer: pref.
34 Spirit of Korea?
36 Twirled
38 Police call letters
39 __ of Galilee
42 & more
45 Pretoria's nation: abbr.
49 French cleric
51 Young Scot
52 Meat jelly
53 Greene of "Bonanza"
55 Count of jazz
57 Maul's neighbor
58 Potts or Oakley
59 Images of gods
61 Basilica area
63 Stout's Wolfe
64 Goddess of strife
66 Lang. of Israel

By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

10/5/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	A	L	E		R	A	J	A	H		A	L	M	S
E	T	A	L		E	L	O	P	E		S	O	I	L
J	O	D	I	E	F	O	S	T	E	R	H	O	M	E
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			S	A	L	T		C	A	P	E			
R	A	C	I	S	M		L	E	W	A	Y	R	E	S
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S	A	L	L	Y	F	I	E	L	D	S	T	O	N	E
P	R	O		O	R	O	N	O			E	M	I	R
S	E	N	S	U	O	U	S		S	A	S	S	E	S
			T	A	N	S		S	I	P	S			
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N	A	T	A	L	I	E	W	O	O	D	W	I	N	D
C	H	A	R		N	Y	L	O	N		O	O	Z	E
H	A	R	T		G	E	S	T	E		E	N	O	S

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Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late TEODOSIO CADA, JR. has been extra-judicially settled among his heirs per Doc. # 262, Page # 58, Book # 10 Series of 2001 before Notary Pulic EDGAR J. TONOLETE of Carigara, Leyte
(PDI-Nov.20,27 & Dec.4,2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

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BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 928-8505 loc. 153 & 253

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

A. The Bureau of Agricultural Research invites all interested Bidders to pre-qualify for the bidding of supply and installation of IT equipment.
B. The following pre-qualification requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR-BAC) at 3rd Flr. ATI Bldg. Elliptical Rd., Diliman, Quezon City to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders:
   1. Company Profile
   2. SEC Registration (Corporation)
      DTI Registration (Sole proprietorship)
      (Accreditation for Repair Shop)
   3. License to Operate (Mayor's Permit)
   4. ITR for the last two years (stamped by BIR)
   5. Audited Financial Statement for the last two years
   6. VAT/E-VAT/NON-VAT Registration
   7. Number of Employees
   8. List of clients within the year with their respective telephone numbers and addresses
   9. The company must indicate in its application the category/ classification/grouping they would like to participate in
   10. Certification that the company is not affiliated with other companies with similar nature of business
   11. Listing of product offered
   12. Certification of dealership from authorized distributor

   NOTE: • ONLY PRE-QUALIFIED BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE INVITATION TO BID DOCUMENTS AND BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.
   • ONLY AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTORS/RESELLERS/ DEALERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.
C. Deadline for submission: **November 26, 2001**
D. Bidding schedule shall be announced to all pre-qualified bidders.
E. The Bureau of Agricultural Research reserves the right to review the qualifications of a selected bidder, subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the Bureau.
F. For further particulars, please inquiries at Telephone Nos.: 928-8505/928-8624 local 153 or 253 c/o Ms. Corazon L. Barretto or Mr. Bernie S. Manuel.

(Sgd.) ELISEO R. PONCE
Director

(PDI--Nov. 18, 19 & 20, 2001)

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"God has taken one of our very best.
May you rest in peace, PAPA.
We love you very much,
we will miss you a lot.
Years of precious memories with you
will stay forever in our hearts."

In Loving Memory

JOSE I. HERNANDEZ

Chairman of the Board and Founder

Victory Liner, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 19, 2001 at the age of 90.

His loving wife **MARTA** (†); children **BERNABE** and **ADELAIDA**, **AMADOR** and **SALLY**, **JOSE JR.** and **JULIETA**, **GERARDA** and **ROMULO** (†), **LUCILA** and **VICTOR**, **VICTORIA** and **ARTURO**, **EUFROSINA** and **JOSE JR.**, **JOHNNY** and **ARLINE**, **CESAR** and **ADITHA**, **EMMANUEL** and **DULCE**; grandchildren and great grandchildren; sisters **ELVIRA** and **CARMEN** (†); and the management and staff of **VICTORY LINER INC.** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at the Parish of the Twin Hearts of Jesus and Mary at Daily Mirror cor. Bulletin St., West Triangle, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced.

(In lieu of flowers, donations will be appreciated at the Doña Marta Hernandez Foundation)

JOSE I. HERNANDEZ SR.

of 12 Bulletin St., West Avenue, Quezon City

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 19, 2001 at the age of 90.

His bereaved wife **Marta** (†); children **Bernabe, Amador, Jose Jr., Gerarda, Lucila, Victoria, Eufrosina, Elena** (†), **Johnny, Cesar** and **Emmanuel**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Twin Hearts of Jesus and Mary, West Triangle, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 24, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Twin Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish Church.

Memorial Service rendered by St. Mark Memorial Chapel.

The Funeral Mass

for

The Honorable José Ortiz Teodoro Jr.

is set for

Wednesday, the Twenty-first of November Two Thousand and One at One-thirty in the afternoon

at the

Santuario de San Antonio Parish Church, Forbes Park, Makati City.

The Interment will follow immediately after the Services at the **Plaza of Wisdom** of the **Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.**

We, the family of the late

MANUEL S. LO

(LO BON POK)

November 25, 1925 - November 2, 2001

wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our relatives, friends, and all those who sent condolences, flowers, donations, offered Masses and prayers, called from abroad, attended the funeral rites and helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

May God grant you abundant blessings for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Thank you very much.

With faith in the Resurrection
We announce the passing of our beloved

SALVACION L. SIN

Into Eternal Life.

She peacefully joined her Creator on the 18th day of November 2001 at the age of 85.

Her brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal repose.

Her remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose Church in Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be at the family lot of the Holy Rosary Memorial Park in New Washington, Aklan.

In Loving Memory of

HERMINIO A. FABROS SR., M.D., Ret. Col. (PAF)

Who died in the Grace of our Lord on November 17, 2001.

His remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Cremation will be on November 22, 2001 (Thursday), 10:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE.

ESTER M. RONQUILLO

of Cavite City and U.P. Village, Quezon City
Formerly with UNESCO - Paris
and U.P. Library - Engineering Dept.

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on November 16, 2001.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels and will be transferred to Alvarez Funeral Homes, Cavite City on November 20, 2001.

Interment will be on November 22, 2001 at Cavite Public Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

ATIENZA and **PADOLINA** families fondly remember the death anniversaries of:

DRA. MA. FE G. ATIENZA
Nov. 20, 1984

DR. ROMEO Y. ATIENZA
Nov. 25, 1961

"The death of our loved ones brings sorrow and deep pain but if our loved ones know the Lord, our love becomes their gain." -Sper

---

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INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

BENITO G. TANLIMCO

Passed away in the Grace of the Lord on November 17, 2001 at the age of 64.

His loving wife **Grace**; children **Jeany Beth** and **Jimson Tan**, **Terence** and **Abby**, **Rowena** and **Michael Chua**, **Carina** and **Albert Ang**, and **Wendy**; grandchildren **Jenali, Joanna, Jasmine, Alyssa, Alyana, Aaron, Marc, Camille** and **Celine**; mother **Maria**; brothers and sisters, other relatives and friends request for prayers for his eternal happiness.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 24, 2001 at Episcopal Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Our Beloved

COL. PACIFICO LOPEZ STO. DOMINGO SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator and his brothers
ARTURO, CLETO, JOTEP, OPONG, EDDIE** and **MUNDING
on November 18, 2001 at the age of 84.

His wife **Isabel Adsuara Sto. Domingo**; children **Boy** & **Menchie**, **Sylvia** & **Boy**, **Heidi** & **Ernan** (†), **Kid** & **Lilly**; grandchildren **Tintin, Kitchie, Ed** & **Pia, Eileen** & **Rex, Cheryl** & **Tony, Pinky** & **Eric, Vincent** & **Emily, Ervin, Jake, Abie** & **Lito, Anna, Ampie** & **Brian**; great grandchildren **Konrad, Abigail, Timmy, Amanda, Nicole, Mark, Michael, Nikkie, JV, Pauline, Alyanna** & **Isabella**; sisters **Rose** & **Gloria**; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 127 Road 4, CAA Housing Area, NAIA, Pasay City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 24, 2001, 2:00 p.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

MESSAGE OF THANKS

As we remember and pray for the eternal repose of our beloved Mama

Lydia Capunitan Diosomito

On her 40th day of being with the Lord,
we, the bereaved family, wish to express our sincerest gratitude
For comforting us in our time of sorrow... For offering prayers and Masses...
For the messages of sympathy and condolence... For the beautiful flowers and gifts to express compassion... And in countless ways for all that you have done to console our hearts.

Diosomito Family
November 20, 2001

We remember and pray for the eternal rest of the soul of our dear

ILUMINADA "LUMING" S. BERNARDO

On her 2nd death anniversary
on November 21, 2001

Masses for the repose of her soul will be offered in the following churches at 6:00 am

Monasterio de Sta Clara, QC
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine (New Mla., QC)
Pink Sisters Convent (New Manila, QC)
Sto. Domingo Convent, QC
Our Lady of Sorrow (FB Harrison, Pasay City)
San Isidro (Taft Ave., Pasay City)
Sta. Clara (P. Burgos St., Pasay City)
San Jose de Trozo Parish (Sta. Cruz, Manila)
Our Lady of Lourdes (Kanlaon, QC)

6:30 am San Rafael Church (Park Ave., Pasay City)
9:00 am St. Anne (Hagonoy)

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Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
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INQUIRER RiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Male & Female

Q. Is "male" the source of the word "female?"

A. Though the Bible tells that Eve sprung from Adam, the word "female" does not stem from "male." The former derives from the Latin *femella,* "a woman"; the latter, from another Latin word *masculus,* "a male." "Woman" and "man," however, are related words. "Woman" is a combination of *wif* and *man,* the words for "wife" and "human being" in Old English.

Real Names. Marie Rachel Taleon (Dawn Zulueta); Winona Horowitz (Winona Ryder); Lorna Aluquin (Lorna Tolentino); Alicia Christian Foster (Jodie Foster); Regina Alatiit (Gina Alajar); Demi Guynes (Demi Moore).

Classified Odd. Betty Jo Hudson, of Wilburn Chapel, Mississippi, seems to have the "ability" to attract lightning. It all started when she was a child and lightning struck her head and face. Then her parents' house was repeatedly hit by lightning, and in 1957, a jolt finally destroyed the home. In recent years, Betty Jo and husband Ernest have witnessed lightning strike all around their residence. Not only was their house hit three years in a row, but their neighbor's house was also damaged by lightning. Other bolts from the blue killed the Hudson's dog, zapped a tree and a pump, and carved out deep ruts in their yard. So far Betty Jo has escaped serious injury, but she has had several close calls. For instance, one summer the Hudson were shelling butter beans on their porch when dark clouds gathered and a storm erupted. The couple retreated to their front bedroom only minutes before a bolt of lightning crashed through a window in another bedroom.

WORD WATCH

Brontophobia (bron toh foh bi uh) : fear of thunder and thunderstorms.

PDI – November 20, 2001

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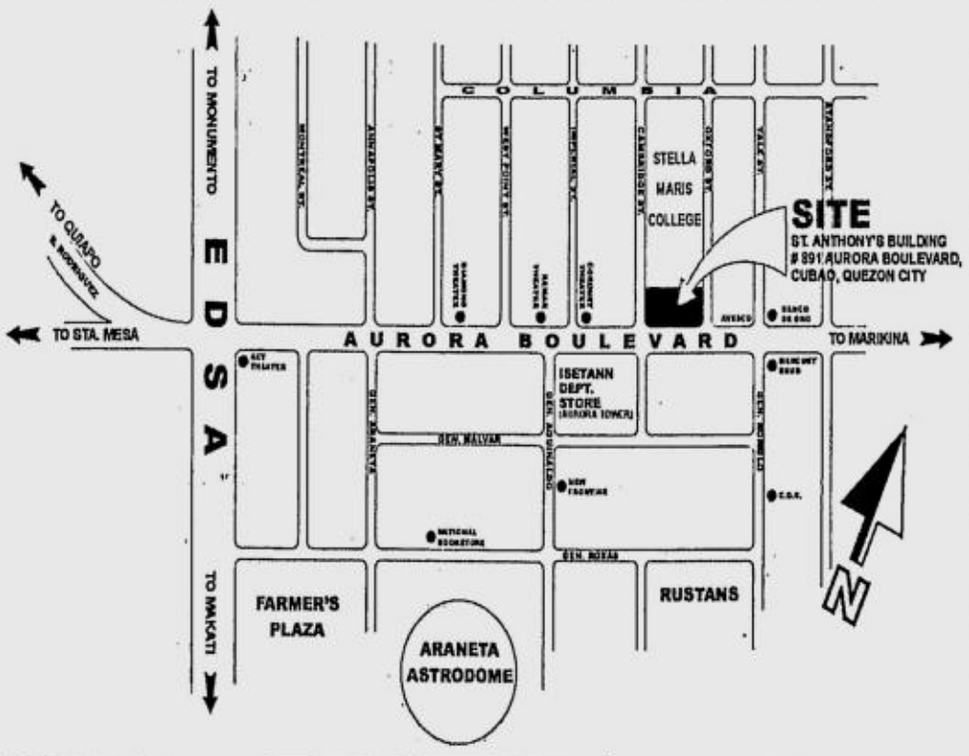


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Interest cap before wage hike, says Creba

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) has urged the government to impose an interest rate cap as a precondition to increasing the minimum wage to as much as P125.

Lawyer Manuel M. Serrano, Creba founder and chair, said it has always been supportive of the labor sector's call for wage hikes, provided that production costs are stabilized through an interest rate cap.

With the current minimum wage of only P250, and the prices of basic commodities, transportation, electricity and water as they are now, a family with a single breadwinner would survive only under subhuman conditions, Serrano said.

Reduced interests

Creba stressed that a 9 percent interest rate ceiling on bank loans—from the present range of 14 percent to as high as 21percent—will substantially lower production costs and thus enable the business sector not only to absorb wage hikes but also to stabilize, if not reduce, the prices of goods and services.

The combined impact of the wage hike and stabilized prices will in turn raise purchasing power and effective demand. This will provide the necessary spark to revitalize business activity across the entire economic spectrum and to propel the economy toward recovery and robust growth, Creba said.

The reduction in production costs owing to reduced interests will also enhance the global competitiveness of the country's producers, particularly the export sector, Creba said. It would provide greater impetus to the activities of housing and construction, which are the most highly capital-intensive among all businesses, and from which 65 other industries derive their business opportunities.

The banking system itself, Creba stressed, will gain rather than lose from an interest rate cap. The reduced production costs that will energize the business sector will result in greater demand for loans and less prospects of nonperforming loans, even as the increases in consumer purchasing power will also result in hiked savings.

Exemption

Creba cautioned, however, that in order to preclude any undue pressure on bank viability, the interest rate cap should be augmented by the exemption of bank lending instruments from the Gross Receipts Tax, the Value Added Tax, the Documentary Stamps Tax and the tax on interest income.

The government will not be prejudiced by these tax exemptions, Creba said. Any potential revenue loss will be more than offset by the following:

- Greater revenues from expanded business activity throughout the entire economy.
- Reduced interest burden on its domestic borrowings.
- Enhanced foreign exchange earnings from a more competitive export sector.

Since the interest rate cap has been tried and proven successful for decades under the regime of the Anti-Usury Law, these measures thus cannot by any means be considered radical, novel, or experimental, Creba stressed.

Serrano said the lowering of interest rates is the primordial factor in enabling the domestic economy to attain self-reliance and self-sufficiency, in a manner that would considerably minimize the ill-effects of global economic downturns such as now prevailing.

The country's present abnormal production structure of high cost of money, high cost of power, high cost of raw materials but cheap labor not only prevents the country from attaining an "independent economy effectively controlled by Filipinos," but also perpetuates the situation where the country's poor continue to get poorer, while the rich continue to get richer, Creba said.

Informal home loans exceed last 2 years' marks

INFORMAL SETTLERS have availed themselves during the first 10 months of some P241.8 million in loan assistance under the government's Community Mortgage Program to finance their land tenure and housing security. This exceeds the loan levels during the previous two years, according to the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp.

NHMFC president Angelico T. Salud said the loans granted as of October have exceeded by 21 percent and 18 percent the CMP loan levels in 2000 and 1999, respectively.

The loan performance is lower than the annual average CMP loans of P246 million during the last 13 years of the urban poor home financing program. The year-end figures, however, are expected to reach the P300-million mark, based on the average monthly loans of over P24 million during the first 10 months, Salud said.

More beneficiaries

Loan beneficiaries during the last 10-month period reached a total of 6,833 and are expected to match the annual average of 8,637 informal settler-families, he said.

He also informed that the NHMFC is targeting a total of 23,000 beneficiaries with a total of P1 billion in loans during the period July 2001-June 2002, as the agency's contribution to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's commitment to provide 50,000 informal settlers with housing assistance.

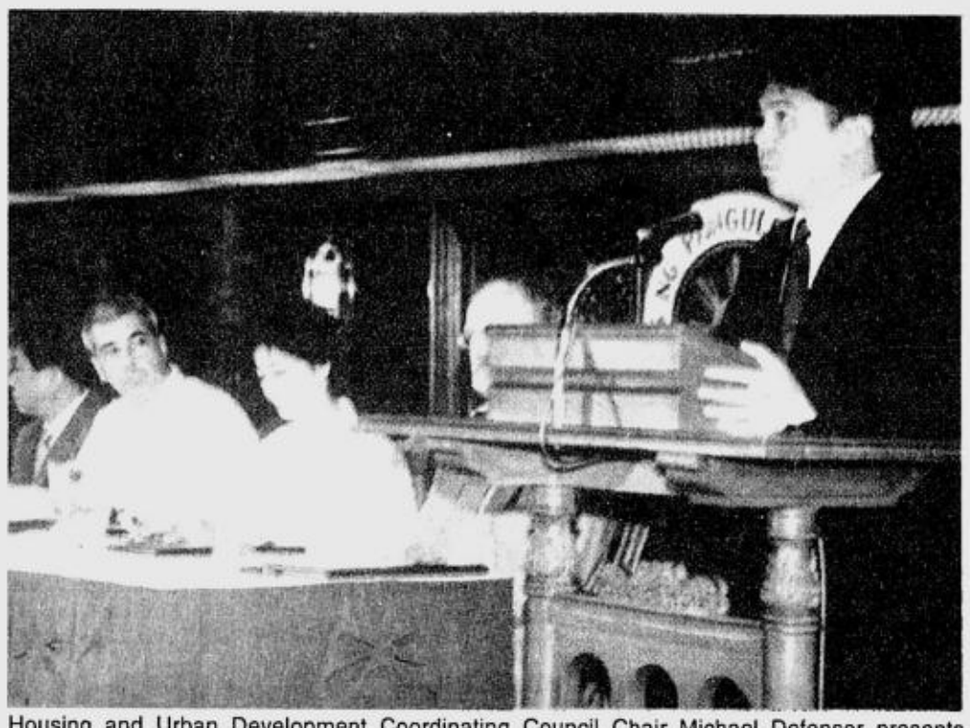
He expressed confidence to meet this target within the remaining eight months should the agency receive the corresponding fund releases consisting of national government subsidies for the CMP.

Reforms

The agency has started to implement radical policy and administrative changes, which he said, would help meet these targets and boost the housing acquisition by the informal housing beneficiaries.

Among these are the following:

- Reduction by 59 percent, from 56 to 23, the number of required CMP loan documents.
- Partial decentralization to the NHMFC regional/zonal offices of the CMP loan processing; increase to P100,000 the maximum individual CMP loan portion for lot and housing applications in Metro Manila or highly urbanized areas and up to P85,000 outside these areas.
- Fast-tracking of the grant by the BIR of the capital gains tax exemption for CMP-financed lands.
- The easing of the titling requirements for said lands by the Land Registration Authority.



Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council Chair Michael Defensor presents the joint recommendations and action plans of the government, business and private sectors and civil society to push the implementation of the government's mass housing program. Listening to Defensor's presentation are, from left, Rep. Prospero Nograles, Fernando Zobel, Ana Teresa de Leon Yuzon and Terrence Jones, resident representative of the United Nations Development Program.

Homeless families can settle down immediately at South Square

FOR THE PRICE of a cellphone, or instead of just renting a house for your family, you can live right away in this house-and-lot property and call it your own home.

Just pay the low reservation fee, file the necessary papers, and quickly you move in at the South Square Village!

3 steps

The 1-2-3 "*mag*-reserve, *mag*-file *at lumipat*" steps make it quite easy for homeless families to settle down right away in the South Square Village, a housing project of the Robinsons Homes Inc.

Robinsons Homes was the awardee for "Most Outstanding Developer of the Year" of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) in 1999.

Located in Pasong Kawayan II, General Trias, Cavite, the housing project is a cluster of house-and-lot packages, featuring a centralized water system, underground drainage system, parks and playground, a 15-meter-wide main road, 6.5- to 12-meter secondary roads, a project perimeter fence, a main gate and guardhouse and entry marker.

Financing package

Under bank financing, the reservation fee is P13,000 and take-out comes after the required documents are completed. Then, *okey, lipat na!*

If the financing package will come from the Pag-Ibig Fund, the 15 percent equity is to be paid in 12 months at a monthly rate of P4,583.33, with the first month's payment as reservation fee.

If it involves a second real estate mortgage, the annual interest rate will be 21 percent for 10 years at P2,599.11 monthly amortization. Take-out will be after the sixth month. The term is 30 years to begin on the seventh month with monthly P1,448.32 amortization.

Under in-house financing, the 30 percent equity is to be paid in 12 months. The balance may be paid under the following schedule: for first five years at 18 percent interest; from the sixth to the 19th year, 20 percent; and from the 11th to the 15th year, 22 percent.

The house-and-lot packages, lot areas range from 32 sq. m to 57.22 sq. m with floor areas of 19.50 sq. m each.

For the last few years, Robinsons Homes has been into horizontal development from low-cost to high-end projects. Its projects are in Cavite, Antipolo City, Davao City and Quezon City. The company is part of the JG Summit Group of Companies.

Christmas discounts offered to Sta. Lucia property owners

PREMIERE developer Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. is giving homeowners the opportunity to settle their accounts on more convenient terms under its Christmas discount scheme.

The discounts will be promptly awarded to homeowners if they availed during the promo period that began Nov. 15 and will end Dec. 15. The discounts are applicable only to properties solely developed by Sta. Lucia Realty.

Says Sta. Lucia president and CEO Exequiel Robles: "With the recent economic downturns and end of the year reckoning of financial obligations, everyone is feeling the crunch. Still, homeownership presents an essential expense. We are thankful for our clients who continue to strive to meet their obligations with us, and as such would like to ease their financial woes a little with the discount schemes. Christmas and the New Year are fast approaching. We feel it is only fitting to gift our clients with happy compromises that enable them to realize their life-long home investment."

The discount schemes are applicable to updated accounts, accounts with arrears, accounts with notice of cancellations, forfeitures or lapsed contract. For updated accounts—installment sales only—as much as 10 percent discount is given if the homeowner opts to pay the balance in full. If the homeowner is unable to pay out the balance in full, the homeowner has the option to pay out at least 6 months advance on his monthly amortization and get a 5 percent discount on the total payment.

For accounts with arrears, if the buyer settles his account up to date, penalties incurred will be waived. Full payment of the lot balance also entitles the buyer to a 10 percent discount off the property's total amount on top of a penalty waiver.

For accounts with notice of cancellations, forfeitures or lapsed contract, Sta. Lucia Realty is offering a 1 to 2 years restructuring scheme of the balance inclusive of interest and penalties. For inquiries, buyers may call up the collection department at 722-5811 to 15.

Realty group sets awards, recognition night Nov. 23

THE NATIONAL Real Estate Association will hold its annual awards and recognition night on Nov. 23, starting at 6:30 p.m., at the Legend Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

The NREA will honor its members and friends from the housing industry for their role in its advocacy for decent and affordable housing.

Dubbed as "NREA Gabi ng Parangal 2001," the occasion will have Housing Secretary Michael T. Defensor, who is also the chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, as special guest.

Leisure Farms ushers in new lifestyle

TRIPS to the provinces or to the countryside always awaken something in us, and make us feel a little more alive. We recognize that familiar longing each time, with each mountain, with each glimpse at the wide, open spaces, the majestic scenery. Such was the recognizable feeling that early morning on Oct. 14, traveling through pleasant traffic and winding roads to witness the groundbreaking and blessing of Leisure Farms Tagaytay, the country's first so-called "leisure hobby farming community and agro-tourism site."

In Lemery, Batangas, it occupies 116 hectares of wide, rolling terrain; raw, virgin soil, untouched wealth of nature. Up on a hill, where the blessing was to be held, festive Leisure Farms' banners were waving in the wind. Soon enough the place was filled with families, with children running around, playing, enjoying the space, the freedom, experiencing a foretaste of what Leisure Farms will be.

For hobby farmers

Property developer Landco Pacific is set to transform the wide, open spaces into a hobby farming community for the farm-loving city dweller, or so-called "hobby farmer." It will be a place for these hobby farmers and their families to spend their weekends, engaging in both refreshing and productive activities, planting seeds, watering the soil, or just relaxing, enjoying the beauty of the surroundings, the freshness of farm life.

PROPERTY owners can enjoy a spectacular view of Mt. Batulao and Balayan Bay.

Nature-seeking city dwellers comprised the crowd that day, people whom Fr. Carmelo Capizzi, who celebrated the morning Mass, described as "tired of the city, looking for different experiences, and searching for different values," in his homily. "In the city, one sees the works of man, what man can do; but out here, in the farm, one sees what God can do," the priest said in his inspiring message.

The groundbreaking took place next to the marketing office, a nifty little modernized *bahay kubo* (hut) of "neo-vernacular" architecture, a few meters away from the Demo Farms, the only completed structure so far, and a symbol of what Leisure Farms will be—a return to our roots, as Filipinos, as human beings, and a return to nature, without necessarily going back in time.

MARKETING office designed by Ludwig P. Alvarez

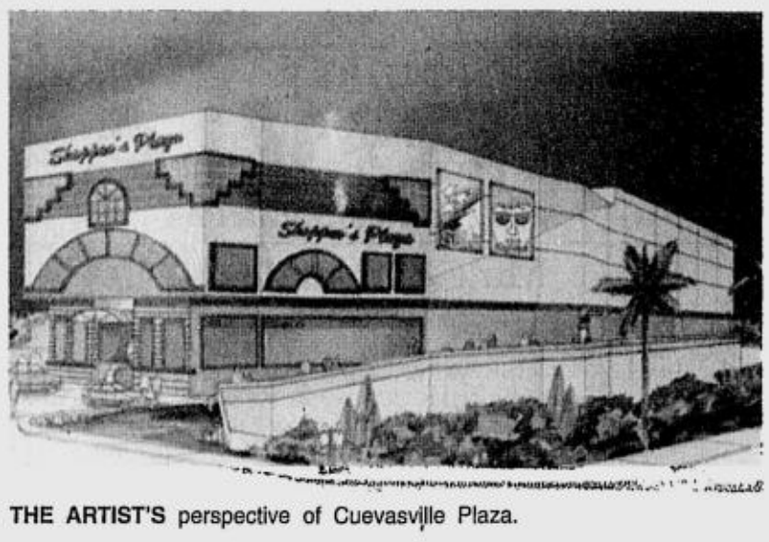
Agricultural community

Landco's Leisure Farms will not only be a series of farm lots but a real, complete, and self-sustaining agricultural community. Apart from the modern amenities, perimeter fencing, 24-hour security and complete farm management services, Leisure Farms will have venues for good old country fun and adventure. These venues are nature trails, bridle paths and a campsite, featuring a clubhouse, swimming pool and man-made lake. There will also be a town center and hotel to cater to clients' and visitors' lifestyle needs.

After the blessing of the marketing office and the lowering of the time capsule, lot buyers were given a tour of the Demo Farms—Landco's model farms. They were introduced to the earthworms, the main attraction in the vermicomposting area. A nursery displaying seedlings and several farm plots of yellow melons, herbs, pechay, kangkong, lettuce and eggplants as well as the tomato plot were there for everyone to behold.

Landco treated its clients and others present to a sumptuous feast as the Makiling Ensemble filled the air with creative renditions of folk songs. There was also an organic market to complete the whole farming mode.

It was a cheerful though quiet event, quiet as the vast space surrounding the site, quiet as the untouched hills. Quiet, the way nature beckons tired, weary souls, those who long for the pure, nature-rich lifestyle, for a more intimate communion with God and nature, with family and friends.



THE ARTIST'S perspective of Cuevasville Plaza.

Realt estate firm optimistic on mall project's success

CUEVASVILLE Realty and Development Corp. is optimistic that Cuevasville Plaza, its mall project in Bacoor, Cavite, will reap handsome dividends once it opens on Dec. 15.

With a total floor area of 32,000 square meters, Cuevasville Plaza will have first-class amenities found only in five-star malls. But the biggest boost, the company believes, is the mall's excellent location.

Located at the corner of Gen. Evangelista Street and Zapote Rotunda, the place has a customer mix of A, B, C, D and E classes. What is doubly significant is that it has an average pedestrian traffic of about 1,500 persons per hour on off-peak and about 2,500 persons per hour on peak hours.

The mall will also benefit from the success of existing commercial establishments in the area. The stretch of Zapote road hosts several banking establishments, public and convenience stores and medical centers.

The mall will have state-of-the-art theaters, escalators and elevators all designed for first-class convenience.

The impact of terrorist activities on commercial realty management

JONES Lang LaSalle, the world's leading real estate services and investment management firm, in a new study has identified the implications of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the management of commercial real estate in the United States, Asia Pacific and Europe. Increased attention to security has emerged as a common factor in all three regions, amplifying already weakened economic conditions and delaying nonsecurity related business decisions.

The study, "The Events of September 11: Impact and Implications for Corporate Real Estate Occupiers," focuses on the heightened demands for corporate occupiers, and provides perspective on the economic outlook, security assessments and technological challenges as well as energy-related and capital issues.

"The perception of safety has become a key factor touching all aspects of real estate portfolio management," said Peter Barge, chair of Corporate Solutions for Jones Lang LaSalle. "It will affect the ability of businesses to attract and retain employees as well as to reassure investors that they will be able to resume operations quickly following a disaster."

Global perspectives

In the United States, increased scrutiny is being given to disaster recovery plans, as well as to decisions related to tenancy in landmark buildings, decentralization of operations and occupancy in suburban versus central business district locations. With Europe's economy already slowing before Sept. 11, leasing volumes are foreseen to be 40 percent lower in 2001 than 2000 with no improvement expected for 2002.

In Asia Pacific, the economic slowdown appears to have had a greater influence on corporate real estate. However, growing concern with security measures and disaster recovery procedures is emerging, and relocation decisions are being delayed. In Australia, the emerging decentralization trend will gather momentum as companies consider locating core functions in central business districts and moving noncore facilities to suburban locations. The popularity of high-rise buildings in Asia may be affected as occupiers no longer compete to occupy the highest profile space and as the accompanying stagnant demand for space prompts a short-term rise in vacancies.

"The unprecedented nature of the attacks has prompted a revision of disaster plans to prepare for a whole new set of potential circumstances," said Joe Stolarski, senior vice president of technical services for Jones Lang LaSalle. "Disaster recovery plans that were designed to anticipate the possibility of fire, severe weather or bomb threats now are being amended to include appropriate responses to potential terrorist acts such as exposure to hazardous materials."

Risk threat matrix

Jones Lang LaSalle also developed a matrix to quantify the relative risk for each building and enable building management to determine if security measures need to be augmented. Criteria include location of the building in relationship to the prominence of its market and its site, proximity to focal points and transportation hubs, tenant exposure and infrastructure importance.

The risk threat evaluation enables building owners and tenants to make informed decisions about relevant security needs. The improvements identified and implemented as a result of the analyses can be used in negotiations with insurers, which may be critical in the anticipated environment of higher premiums, and in prioritizing security needs across portfolios. Furthermore, for companies seeking large blocks of leased space, this methodology can assist in obtaining corporate-friendly terms in lease language.

Security procedures

Once the relative risk has been assessed, enhanced security measures can be implemented. Jones Lang LaSalle has compiled a list of 40 security assessment and enhancement procedures that can improve building safety levels and promote employees' sense of well being. Preparation measures include reviews of existing emergency, bomb threat and crisis communication plans; establishment of business continuity plans; establishment of emergency centers; reviews of security deployment, alarm and closed-circuit surveillance systems and common lighting systems; completion of photographic inventories and off-site storage of building drawings; and review of usage and presence of hazardous materials.

Further immediate precautions include employee background checks; photo identification for building employees and contractors; screening of incoming mail; reduced access to stairs, corridors, empty floors and building spaces; and enforcement of new daytime and overnight parking regulations.

Jones Lang LaSalle is the world's leading real estate services and investment management firm, operating across more than 100 markets on five continents. The company provides integrated expertise, including management services, transaction services and investment management services on a local, regional and global level to owners, occupiers and investors. LaSalle Investment Management, the company's investment management business, is one of the world's largest and most diverse real estate investment management firms, with more than $23 billion of assets under management.

Georgetown clubhouse open for viewing

GEORGETOWN Lakeview Vacation Estate's posh clubhouse in Metro Tagaytay is now open for public viewing. First Georgetown Ventures Inc. (FGVI) general manager Richmond Yang announced that the construction of the 800-square-meter clubhouse has recently been completed and is now ready for prospective house and lot buyers.

"We are very happy to welcome guests who want to see its various amenities," Yang said.

Exclusive use

Designed for the exclusive use of Georgetown residents, the clubhouse provides various modern amenities for rest and relaxation. It was specially designed for every member of the family—from grandparents to grandchildren.

Located at the topmost point of Georgetown, the clubhouse has an indoor swimming pool where kids and adults alike can take a relaxing dip. It will soon open a fitness center that offers state-of-the-art facilities for working out weekday stress and a game room where one can enjoy a round of billiards, table tennis, darts, chess and the latest video games with family and friends.

Perfect hideaway

The clubhouse complements Georgetown's promotion of a great weekend getaway or lifelong retreat for families and retirees. Conveniently tucked away from the busy Tagaytay rotunda and with a private road leading up to its gates, it provides residents the perfect hideaway from city life without leaving the comforts of modern living.

Interested parties may choose from 10 model units—all done in American country home-style. All houses are equipped with modern amenities and each homeowner enjoys a personal view of the magnificent Taal volcano. Each home also enjoys a generous distance from each other.

Georgetown prime lots are currently available at around P7,250 per sq. m, while average lots are sold at P6,750 per sq. m.

CONSTRUCTSCOPE

Klappstuhl gearing for expansion

FOR THE PAST 20 years, Klappstuhl (German word for folding chair) has consistently posted advances in the furniture industry. In fact, with special stress on quality, practicality and ingenuity of designs and construction, the company has penetrated and successfully gained market acceptance for its products in the uncompromising US and European markets. This year is a milestone in Klappstuhl history. Applying the same zeal, which propelled the company to what it is now, Klappstuhl is now venturing into contemporary and designer furniture. To provide homeowners, architects and interior designers a more comprehensive and well-planned approach to design execution, Klappstuhls has formed a service group that specializes in interior construction. This is manned by a competent and well-trained staff to execute any design requirement—from office modules/partitions to cabinets to kitchen modules to furniture. A one-stop-shop, if you will. Klappstuhl management believes that this will efficiently reduce down-time and cost overruns normally accompanying most design projects.

Professional seminar series for license renewal

THE PASAY-MAKATI Realtors Board Inc. is scheduling its Continuing Education Program series of seminars for Dec. 1 and 8 (Saturdays), from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Main Dining, Penthouse, Makati Stock Exchange Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Licensed brokers, who have not yet complied with the required hours for the renewal of license, are invited to attend. Likewise, all licensed brokers who are initially licensed in 1998 and 1999 may now attend these seminars to accumulate the necessary hours in preparation for next year's renewal. This two-day series of seminar will accomplish the required 16 hours (8 hours per Saturday). Interested parties may call up the PMRB secretariat at 893-0569 or 893-0585 or e-mail at pmrb@broline.com or visit the PMRB office for registration at Unit 502-P Parking Building, Cityland 10, H.V. dela Costa Street cor Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Ciac, Pica booth at Philconstruct

THE CONSTRUCTION. Industry Arbitration Commission (Ciac) of the Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (Ciap), an agency attached to the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Philippine Institute of Construction Arbitrators Inc. (Pica), a private nonstock, nonprofit organization composed of Ciac accredited arbitrators, entertained inquiries from the public on how to avail of the construction arbitration facilities of Ciac during the 11th Philconstruct. This year's construction show was held recently at the World Trade Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Pasay City.

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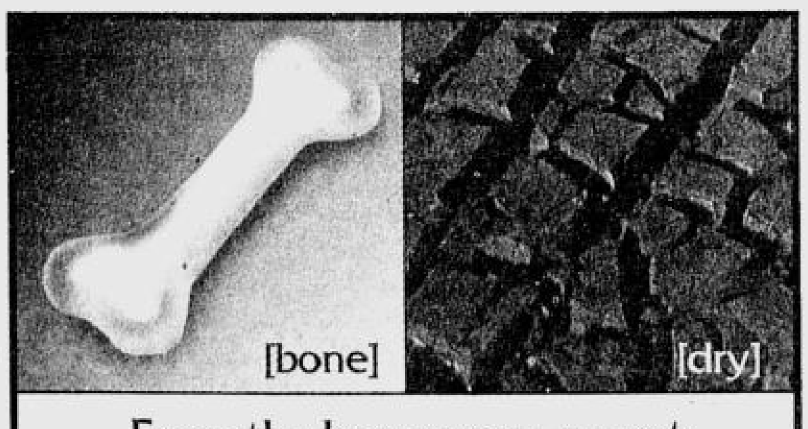

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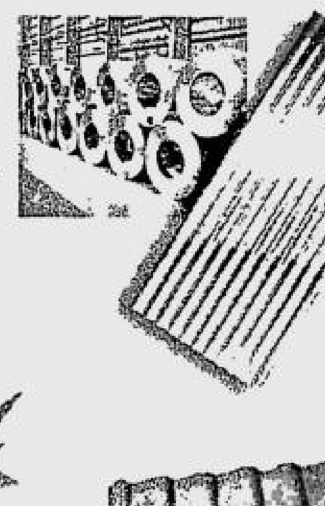

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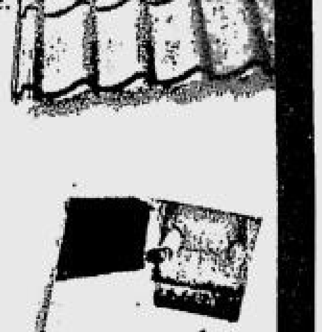

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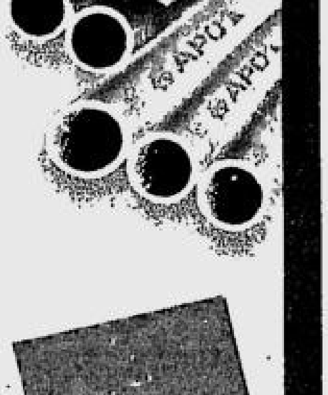

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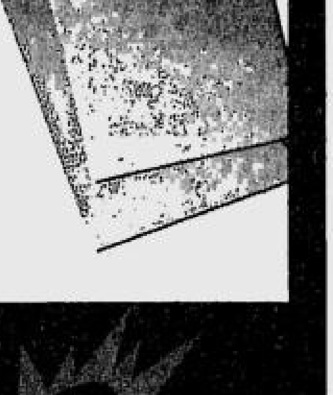

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2001

BUSINESS

Napocor insurance rebid fails

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE GOVERNMENT'S attempt to re-bid yesterday the all-risk insurance policy for National Power Corp.'s $6.5 billion worth of assets failed anew as none of the four bidders met the technical requirements provided in the auction's terms of reference.

The four insurance brokers that participated in yesterday's bidding were Arthur J. Gallagher, Heath Lambert, Marsh & Mclennan and Aon Energy.

Finance Undersecretary Antonio Bernardo, who chairs the committee tasked to oversee the bidding in the absence of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, said the four companies submitted different packages providing different coverage.

This, Bernardo said, meant that the bids could not be compared using the same parameters.

"Probably because of the difficult condition in the insurance industry worldwide, the bidders could only provide coverage only for limited areas," Bernardo said.

With the failure of the government's second attempt to bid out Napocor's insurance policy, Bernardo said the committee was left with no other choice but to look for and consider alternative schemes to meet Napocor's insurance needs.

He said this would include going into negotiations with prospective insurers and putting up a captive insurance company.

He said the committee would meet within the week to decide on which option to take.

The committee, he said, was expecting Napocor to submit a proposal to form a captive insurance company that would serve the power firm's insurance requirements.

He said that if the committee would opt to negotiate with prospective insurers, things would be a lot easier.

In its meeting, the committee is also expected to determine which companies to approach for the negotiations.

"Of course, the pre-qualified bidders have a head start on this since they have already made their 30-percent placement," he said.

The 30-percent placement was part of the requirements in yesterday's bidding.

Bernardo said the committee would have to seek the "proper approval" to pursue its plans since its mandate was technically over when the second bidding failed.

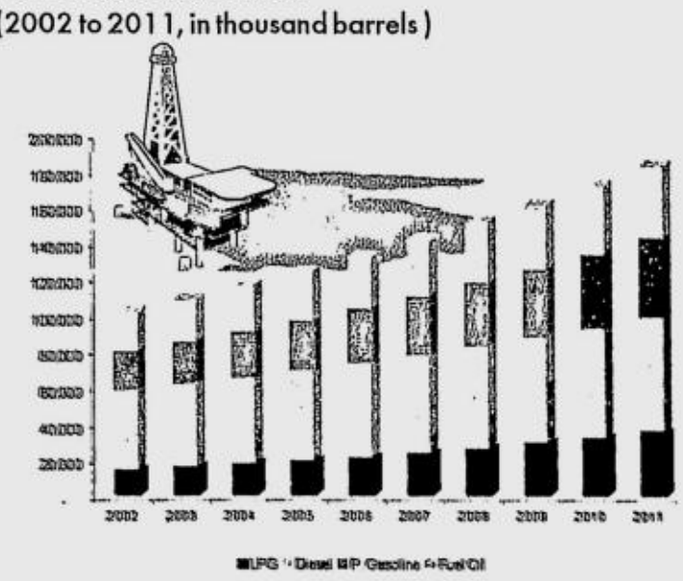
The committee was created by a Malacañang memorandum order after officials of Napocor and the Government Service Insurance System disagreed over the bidding committee's leadership.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Petroleum demand

(2002 to 2011, in thousand barrels)



Source: Department of Energy's Draft Philippine Energy Plan

TOTAL demand for the four types of fuel is projected to grow annually by about 7-percent and reach 183.3 million barrels in 2011. Of the four, LPG demand is seen growing the highest to about 11percent every year. Demand for fuel oil is seen to taper off by 2008.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

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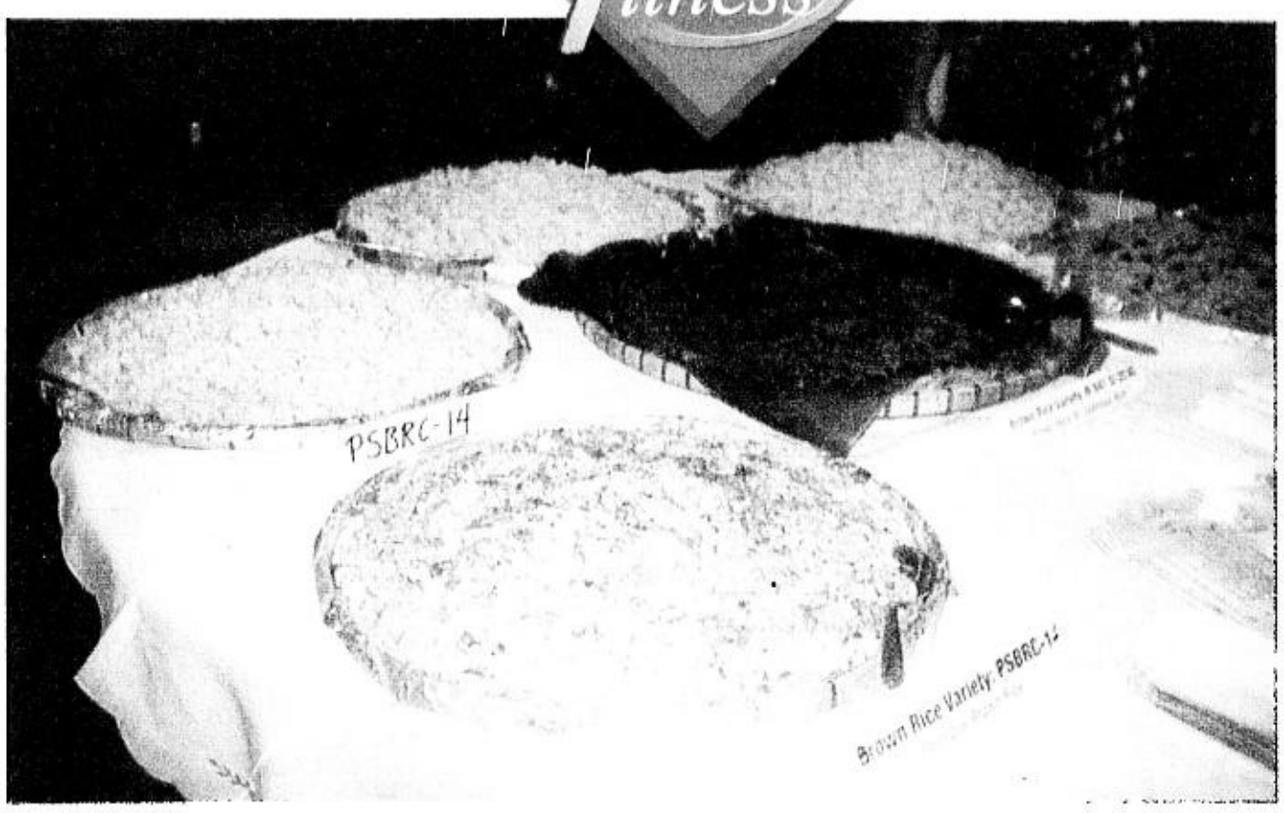

BROWN rice meals are displayed during the launching of the revival of brown rice consumption at the Kapihan sa Sulo in Quezon City recently. The recipes were kitchen-tested by Makati school home economics teachers led by Ms Asuncion Tan of the Pio del Pilar Elementary School.

The bran left intact in unpolished whole grain rice contains nutrients known to prevent a number of diseases, including heart ailments and cancer

Brown is beautiful– and healthful

BY EDITA T. BURGOS

IT may not be hyped as "super food"—not yet, anyway—but brown rice comes close to it for its many vitamins, nutrients, minerals and essential oils.

Rice and nutrition experts and scientists are one in extolling the greater benefits of the unpolished whole grain cereal than the more common white polished (or well-milled) rice.

According to them, brown rice has higher nutritional value because of increased amounts of fiber, thiamine, niacin, fat, phosphorous and iron. In addition, the bran left intact in brown rice contains other nutrients known to prevent a number of diseases, including heart ailments and cancer.

But all these have been forgotten, prompting the Asia Rice Foundation to launch recently a campaign to revive brown rice consumption among Filipinos and other rice-eaters of Asia.

Nutritional edge

The campaign centers on the nutritional edge of brown rice over milled rice. There are studies to prop up the value of this forgotten health food.

One such study was conducted by retired associate professor Angelita M. del Mundo and research associate Melani H. Narciso of the University of the Philippines Los Baños College in Laguna.

Citing previous researches on brown rice, Del Mundo and Narciso found out that brown rice has "a definite nutritional edge over milled rice."

Proximate analysis conducted for cooked brown rice and white rice revealed that the former has 196 percent, 162.5 percent and 429.41 percent higher values than milled rice in terms of fiber, ash and fat, respectively. Energy and protein contents were also notably higher in brown rice.

In their study, the researchers pointed out that the bran retained in brown rice is packed with essential fatty acids, including the antioxidant gamma oryzanol and other nutrients and nutraceuticals.

The significant doses of B vitamins and potent anti-oxidants, like phytic acid or phytate found in brown rice also help fight heart disease and in impeding cancers as well, according to the study.

The fiber contents of brown rice also provides satiety or a feeling of fullness, which is useful in weight management.

For patients prone to kidney stones, the bran of brown rice was also observed to decrease urinary calcium.

But the more popular benefits derived from brown rice can be attributed to the bountiful nutrients in its bran which is said to help prevent beri-beri. In fact, in the early '50s, the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources campaigned for the utilization of rice bran to prevent beri-beri, then the No. 2 killer in the Philippines at the time. The popu-

BROWN/ p.C4

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Hair today

Trend is ladylike look

THE LATEST hair trends among Asian women are elegant, natural and very straight. So says Sunday Hamoy, research and development expert on Ascend of Procter & Gamble (P&G).

Just recently, P&G introduced locally Ascend Extra Care with coconut oil and Chinese herb *shouwu*, a new variant of Ascend herbal hair moisturizer that provides one-step solution to dry and damaged hair.

Specifically, Hamoy identified the ladylike chic look to have been gaining ground during early part of 2001 and is seen to continuously set the trend among Asian women.

This hairstyle is a more sophisticated, refined and sumptuous rendition of the classical ideal of beauty that was a hit from the 1950s and early 1960s.

It can be distinctively enhanced with champagne and cognac hair colorings done in hypnotic combinations or dramatic contrasts.

The constructivist style, which has a lot in common with the geometric cuts in the 1960s, is also setting a trend in hair design. According to Hamoy, hairstylists around the world have added some technological innovations to the geometric cuts to modernize the hairstyle and set the constructivist trend.

Darker shades with a muted sheen are recommended in coloring the hair to make tills style more appealing. "Linearity and functionality are essential. Precision is the keyword for hair," Hamoy said, adding that the starting point for this trend is the idea of experiencing something perceived as old and familiar in a new and exciting way.

The end justifies the means

A GLOBAL study conducted by P&G has spawned a new concept in the development of its Pantene line of shampoos and hair conditioners.

The study, which shows how most women misdiagnose their hair needs and pick the wrong products in the process, has become the basis for the emergence of new Pantene variants now on the market. The new Pantene variants cater directly to the specific looks or desired results that consumers want for their hair.

"Instead of asking yourself what's the problem with your hair, you can now simply ask what you want your hair to be and pick the specific Pantene variant for that purpose," explains P&G associate market operations manager for hair care Rommel Fuentebella.

This developed after P&G had found out from its study that many women wanting to get a volume-up look would use high-conditioning instead of low-conditioning shampoo. The same mistake happens when women who want a volume-down look use a low-conditioning shampoo.

P&G has shifted from the traditional type-of-hair focus (whether oily, dry or normal) to the so-called "end-look" result. Thus, the end-look that a woman wants simply becomes her only criterion in choosing from among the Pantene Pro-V Volume & Fullness for more body and volume, Pantene Pro-V Balanced Clean shampoo and conditioner for a well-conditioned healthy hair that looks so natural; Pantene Pro-V Anti-Dandruff for the prevention of the recurrence of dandruff; and Pantene Pro-V Smooth & Silky for smoother, straighter and frizz-free hair.

Fashion house fosters breast cancer awareness

IN ASIA, the Philippines has the highest incidence of breast cancer and due to its serious implications, Liz Claiborne has stepped up active support for creating a higher level of awareness where the disease is concerned.

The fashion company dedicated the last month to increasing this awareness through info-flyers on self-examination and special items on sale to support the activities of the partner-foundations, Cua Bang Foundation, The Bosom Buddies Support Group and the ICanServe Foundation.

A forum was held at the Liz Claiborne store (at the 3/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Edsa) to highlight the need for awareness, early detection through self-examination and the necessary medical intervention to overcome the disease.

Guest speakers who shared their struggles and experiences in surviving the illness were Natividad Villa and June Ileto. Diagnostic phase deliberations were carried out by Josie Chua and Becky Miesel, members of the Bosom Buddies Support Group.

Those who facilitated and imparted their expertise on breast cancer were Dr. Angela Umali-Crisostomo, head mammographer of Makati Medical Center, and Dr. Diane Cua, breast cancer surgeon and president of the Cua Bang Foundation.

Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, author of the book "ICanServe," a tribute to the numerous victims of breast cancer, talked of the contents of her book regarding the experiences, support groups, activities and resources open to breast cancer patients and survivors.

Also present were Becky Kalaw, president of the Soroptomist Int'l.; Celia Elumba of Igedo Fashions, franchisee of Liz Claiborne, Claiborne, Hugo Boss and Clarks of England; and other special guests.

THE BOSOM Buddies Support Group. (From left) Lily Yu, Jesily Regalado, Linda Panutat, Becky Meisel, Josie Chua, Dulce Vergara, Cherry Ong, Susan Ching, Juliet Cu, Mary June Ileto, Nagie Arroyo, Chel Poral, Carmen Tang. Seated are Celia Elumba of Igedo Fashions and Liz Clairborne, and Dr. Diana Cua, president of Cua Bang Foundation and breast surgeon of the Makati Medical Center.

Italian doctor's invention treats cellulite from within

Cellasene started out as a flash of inspiration but recent studies back its effectiveness against dimpled skin

THE 50-YEAR-OLD Italian doctor who races in a Ferrari and for whom home is a 19th-century house in Turin with frescoes on the ceiling can now have the last laugh on his detractors.

Dr. Gianfranco Merizzi, the man who invented Cellasene, is today hailed as the Miracle Man by thousands of women the world over who at one time suffered the bane of "orange peel" thighs and buttocks.

"We trust this new evidence puts a stop to skepticism and show that this pill can do what neither exercise nor body treatments can achieve," said Merizzi.

To date, five clinical trials have been conducted independently in seven countries, in which a total of 300 women aged between 18-55 years old participated in eight-week trial sessions. The trials used recognized scientific assessment methods under strict European guidelines. These trials have been published in leading international journals, including the International Journal of Cosmetic Surgery and Aesthetic Dermatology, Les Nouvelles Dermatologiques, Flebologia and were presented at global conferences such as the International Union of Phlebology (Rome).

Dr. Leonardo Celleno, professor in Dermatology at the University La Cattolica, Rome, conducted the fifth clinical trial involving 200 women in seven countries. He concluded that "Cellasene represents today the fundamental phytotherapic application for cellulite. It has been found to be very useful for all the circulatory problems."

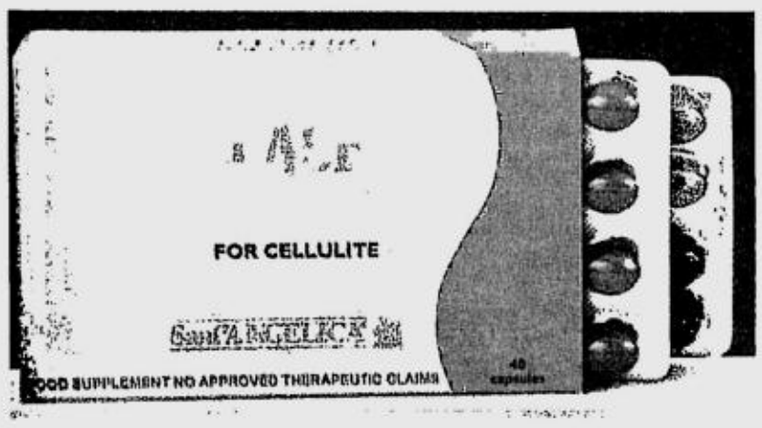
DR. Gianfranco Merizzi

More than skin deep

Cellulite occurs within the skin's underlying, structural layers (the ipodermal layer, between the dermis and the subcutaneous fat) resulting in the modification of the body shape. Thus, because cellulite is a problem that is more than skin deep, creams and lotions for cellulite only penetrate the upper layers of the skin and do not reach the underlying layer where it counts.

Cellasene, on the other hand, tackles the problem from within. It combines plant extracts which are 200 times more concentrated than the normal extracts commonly available.

Cellasene came as a flash of inspiration to Merizzi when he was a guest at a Miss Italy contest in Milan.



"I was chatting with some of the contestants, and a common complaint, even for these slim and beautiful women, was that they could not get rid of cellulite," he recalled. "They asked me why there was nothing on the market that worked, and that got me thinking. Previously, like everyone else, I had thought about cellulite in terms of creams applied on the outside. Suddenly I got the idea that some of our other products could be combined to treat cellulite from within."

The doctor wasted no time in assembling a crack team of doctors and researchers to make his idea a reality. Within a year, working from the University of Milan and the University Hospital of Pavia (one of the world's top dermatology clinics and one of Italy's two oldest universities, 40km southwest of Milan), Dr. Merizzi and his team had come up with the basic formula for Cellasene.

Blend of plant extracts

While details of the formula and the process of extracting Cellasene's powerful active ingredients remain a closely guarded secret, it is based on a blend of plant extracts with special properties. These include grape seed bioflavanoids (powerful antioxidants that protect cells and blood vessels from damage), dried sweet clover extract (assists circulation and fights fluid retention), ginkgo biloba extract (helps improve blood circulation and helps with the metabolism of fats), fucus vesiculosus extract (helps stimulate metabolism and helps reduce localized fats), soya lecithin (assists in the emulsification of fats) and evening primrose and fish oils (help increase metabolic levels and help diminish saturated fatty acids).

Merizzi is himself a scientific prodigy whose lifestyle is almost as exciting as his work. A sixth-generation pharmacist who graduated at the top of his class from the University of Turin and who has a doctorate in Pharmacological Chemistry and Technology, Merizzi whizzes around in the Formula One car he owns and races when he is not in the lab.

In 1986, Merizzi established the Sant'Angelica Institute of Cosmetic Medicine, with the goal of tackling beauty problems from a medical perspective. Four years later, his Turin-based company, Medestea Internazionale, was founded to manufacture and market a range of highly effective products based on powerful extracts from natural, side effects-free ingredients. Three of these products—a slimming tablet, a preparation to improve blood circulation and an anti-inflammatory medication—were to provide the backbone for Cellasene.

"What we are about is natural products with no side effects, that work quickly and show noticeable results. Our products offer promised results and are backed by international scientific research and studies," he said.

Sant'Angelica is the first company in Europe to be given the Quality Blue Label for Cellasene from the Italian Consumer Association, which is part of the European Consumer Association in Brussels. To get this recognition, the institute had to demonstrate the quality of the ingredients, efficacy, safety and quality control system during production of Cellasene to the scientific committee of the Italian Consumer Association, etc.

While Cellasene remains his flagship invention, Merizzi's career achievements are wide-ranging. He is part of various research groups involved in the development of natural or biologic innovative products and the scientific investigation of aging and related diseases. In July 2001, in collaboration with two groups of scientists, he patented a special type of stem cell for the production of blood vessels and a new vaccine against the AIDS disease, which will be available for human consumption next year.

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Meet your MEDICard Team

UP College of Medicine graduate, **Dr. Rebecca R. Feliciano** is one of MEDICard's most recent additions to its roster of accredited specialists. Dr. Feliciano who specializes in Otorhinolaryngology, received her residency training from UP-PGH. She has special interest in the diagnosis and treatment of voice disorders and swallowing problems and thus subspecialized in Laryngeal, Voice and Swallowing Disorders with training from Grabscheid Voice Center and Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York, USA. She is a fellow to the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology and a member of the Philippine Medical Association. Doc Rebecca spends most of her free time with her family, travelling, swimming or singing. For your consultation needs, visit her at room 135 of the Medical Arts Bldg. of St. Luke's Medical Center, every Monday and from Wednesdays to Fridays, 9 AM to 3 PM and on Tuesdays from 9 AM to 12 noon.

MEDICard Pediatrician, **Dr. Nancy A. Anchores** has been a proud member of our medical service team since 1991. Doc Nancy, a graduate of UERMMMC, earned her residency training from the University of Perpetual Help Medical Center. She is the training officer for the Department of Pediatrics of Medical Center Muntinlupa. Dr. Anchores is a valued member of the Philippine Pediatric Society, the Perinatal Association of the Philippines and the Las Piñas Medical Society. You may visit Doc Nancy for your consultation needs at the Perpetual Help Medical Center, room 408, from Mondays to Saturdays, 8 to 10 AM.

Dr. Jovino R. Chumacera is MEDICard's accredited specialist based in Laguna. Doc Jovino received his residency training in Urology from Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center and is currently affiliated with the Philippine Urological Association. For your consultation needs, you may visit him at the San Pablo Doctors Hospital from Mondays to Fridays, 8 to 10 in the morning.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com.

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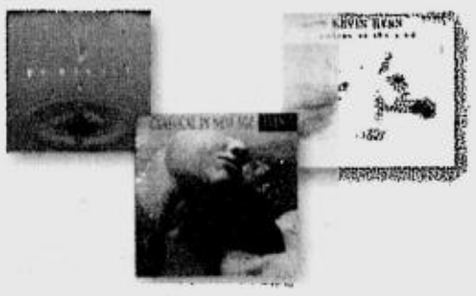

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HINT: Check out *Lifestyle Section on* Tuesday, November 20 for Inquirer's My Wish Box.

Priests run for a cause

IN THANKSGIVING to the institution that sheltered and nurtured them as they strove to fulfill their vocation, alumni of San Jose Seminary organized the Takbong Josefino.

Led by running priest Fr. Robert Reyes, the runners went on a 32-km trip down memory lane, visiting old sites of San Jose Seminary. The run began at 8 a.m. at the La Ignaciana Jesuit Residence in Sta. Ana and proceeded to the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila in Intramuros, where the party was welcomed by the university's students. The runners then went to Manila Central University and the Quezon City General Hospital where they were greeted by administrators of the institutions.

The group offered prayers and reflections, lighted candles, and left behind Josefino tree seedlings to be planted in memory of the San Jose Seminary at each of the sites visited. Participating in the run were other Josefinos—Fr. Manny Sarez, SJAA President; Fr. Chickie Manalo, the original Running Seminarian; Fr. Ben Noroña; and Bro. Buen Cruz, who is a seminarian at San Jose. Fr. Danny Huang, SJ, San Jose seminary rector, also graced the activity with his presence.

The event culminated in Ateneo de Manila University where the runners were accompanied by seminarians from Gate 3 to the current home of San Jose Seminary in the campus. More prayers and reflections were offered, four trees were planted on the seminary grounds symbolizing the four centuries of San Jose Seminary, and 400 candles were lighted.

The run, which endeavored to raise P400,000 for San Jose Seminary and its various projects, is in preparation for the San Jose Seminary anniversary celebrations, which will be held on Nov. 21-23.

FR. Robert Reyes leads fellow alumni of San Jose Seminary in thanksgiving run.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Where do spirits of murder victims go?

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

FROM READER Shelby Payne:

I am an American living in Cavite. In August this year, my friend Jerry was murdered in his home in Cagayan de Oro, along with his maid. At present, three of the five killers are at large. I was very close to Jerry; he was like my stepfather in the Philippines. We had known each other from Chicago since 1994. I even lived across the street from him. We had many good and bad times as well. I was always close to him and he was one of the few persons I could open up to. I have lived here for six years. His death was a shock to me.

I have several questions that I hope you can answer because I am really curious. (Response follows each question.)

Is Jerry's spirit still roaming here on earth until all his killers are caught?

This depends on his consciousness or state of awareness after he died. If he has not forgiven his killers nor accepted his death and wants to seek justice, or if he has any unfinished business or attachment with the living, then he may still be very much around. He will be earth-bound for a while.

In life, Jerry had a mean side, a real practical joker. Can his spirit still play practical jokes and the like?

A person does not change his behavior or attitude immediately simply because he has lost his body. He may still be carrying the same personality pattern in the spirit world, until he learns to adjust. Let me give you an example. A very possessive and jealous wife suddenly died. After she was buried, her husband one day was driving with another woman beside him in the car. The wife appeared to him outside the windshield nagging him about the woman he was with. So it is possible for Jerry to be still playing practical jokes on his friends even in the after life.

Will his spirit be in my apartment in Cavite, or in Cagayan de Oro where the murder took place?

Depends on where his consciousness and attachments lie. He can appear in both places. Usually spirits of murder victims visit or stay in the place where they met their deaths. That becomes sacred ground for them—and also for the people left behind. That's why the World Trade Center in New York has become sacred ground for the Americans, the same way that Masada is to the Israelites.

Can his spirit bring either good or bad things to persons he knew here on earth?

Again, this will depend on his consciousness or level of awareness. If he is a loving, helpful and generous person, then he may bring positive things to those left behind. If not, then the opposite will be true—unless he learns to let go.

Is there some way I can talk to Jerry's spirit? I feel that his presence is very strong.

That depends on whether the spirit wants to talk to you and if you are capable of receiving the message. Not everybody is able to do this because his or her psychic centers may not be open or active. If the spirit wants to talk to the living he will manifest his presence in many different ways. If there is no strong manifestation, then it is best not to disturb or bother the spirit anymore. Let him rest in peace.

I am generally against contacting the dead, unless first, there is really a very good and strong reason for doing so, and second, that the spirit manifests his desire to communicate with the living. Without these two conditions, it is best to leave things well enough alone.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit my www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

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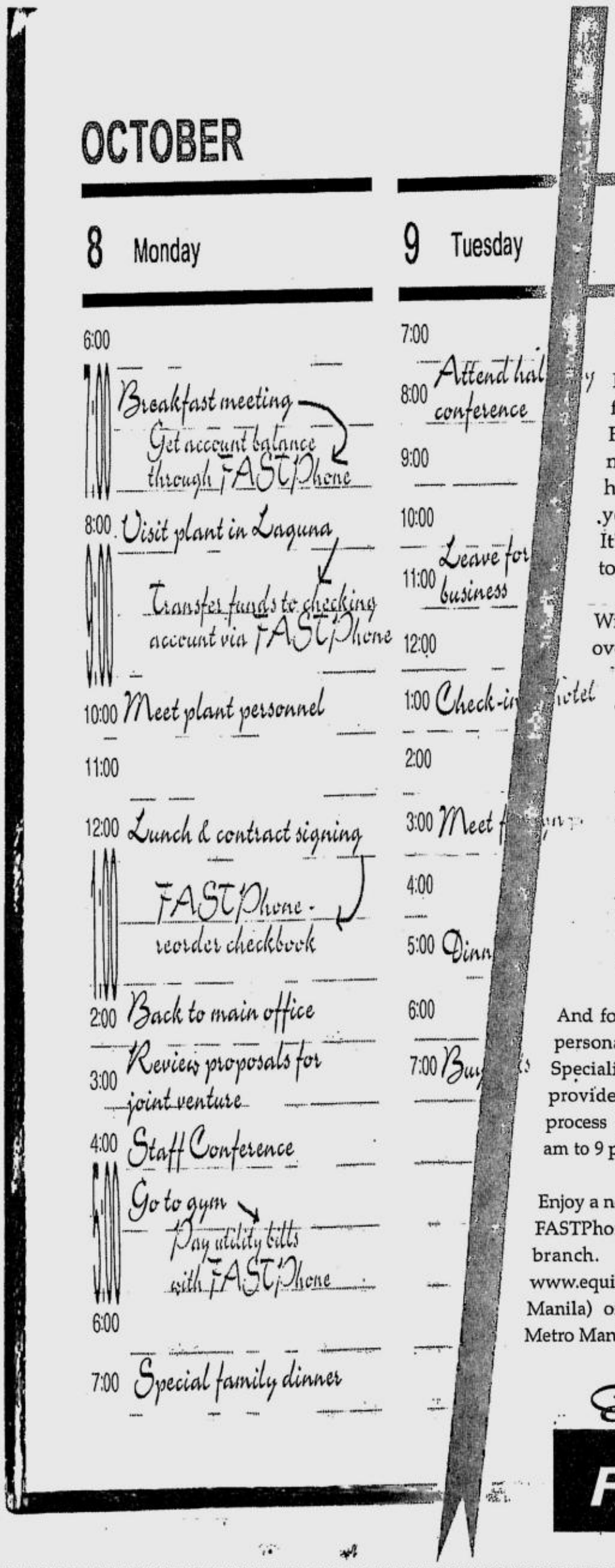

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A hospital's history of compassion

THERE'S something in Tondo that merits media attention and no, it's not Asiong Salonga.

When Methodist missionary Dr. Rebecca Parrish arrived in Tondo, Manila in 1908, health conditions were bad and health care was virtually non-existent. It was a period when 60 percent of all the babies born there died before they reached 5 years old. Along with three Filipino nurses and some others she was training to be nurses, she established a clinic near the National Methodist Church.

Meantime, many miles away—in Minneapolis, Minnesota—Daniel S. B. Johnston had just lost his wife, Mary, whom he greatly loved. He was planning to establish a memorial for her. A native of Indiana, where Dr. Parrish came from, Johnston found out about her desire to establish a hospital in the Manila district. So he provided the funding in his wife's name to build the hospital—a gift for the people of Tondo in memory of the woman he loved.

After the 50-bed Mary Johnston Hospital was put up and began operations in 1908, it burned down in 1911, but was promptly rebuilt as a modern, 150-bed hospital. When war razed the world in the 1940s, Mary Johnston Hospital was destroyed as the Americans came and recaptured Manila. Only the portico was left standing.

The hospital was reconstructed in 1950, the most modern equipment was brought in, everything was brand-new, and so Mary Johnston Hospital came to be known as the most modern hospital in all of Manila. It was inaugurated by President Elpidio Quirino. An annex portion was added to the hospital some two decades later, and since then, the doctors and staff at Mary Johnston have been hard at work, providing compassionate health care for Tondo residents and patients from nearby districts.

Today, Mary Johnston has a residency training program in four specialties of medicine; it also has a college where they train physical therapists, respiratory therapists, midwives and paramedics (hopefully soon, they will also set up a health-care giver course), and also an MBA program. In the same campus, Mary Johnston College of Nursing can be found, the nursing school for Philippine Christian University (not a subdivision of the hospital but of PCU). Across the way, separated from the main compound, is the Eveland Hall, a dormitory space that is also a clinic.

Current administrator Charles A. Ivy, accompanied by his wife Dee (both are Methodist missionaries), joined the Mary Johnston team only in February.

"It's been difficult to maintain its mission," Ivy shares, "because the people who seek care here are not wealthy and the sources of funding that we have from the US and other places are not as strong as they used to be. People aren't giving to mission health care as much as they used to."

But there's just no giving up. "We're looking for ways that we can continue this mission here in Tondo because we believe these people need the holistic services of Mary Johnston. We seek to treat not only the body but the spirit as well. And so we are attempting to re-establish some of our past capabilities," Ivy says. Mary Johnston Hospital recently acquired a brand-new X-ray machine and a chemistry analyzer for the laboratory through the so-called Millennium Fund, a program provided by the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church to renovate Methodist healthcare facilities around the world. Mary Johnston Hospital was one of the first to receive funding from such project. It has also recently implemented a dialysis unit and a C.T. Scanner.

"One of my main jobs is to try to establish connections with more United Methodist churches and hospitals in the US." He mentions that in the US, hospitals change their perfectly good equipment and go with more modern ones. These suddenly "obsolete" but excellently functioning, expensive machines sometimes get sold at very low prices or simply thrown away.

MARY Johnston Hospital on Nolasco Street, Tondo has been identified as an American Heritage site.

> The Mary Johnston in Tondo was one of the first Methodist health-care facilities in the world to receive funding from the Millennium Fund of the United Methodist Church

The hospital administration plans to pursue exchange programs with big teaching Methodist hospitals abroad where Filipino doctors, nurses and technologists could go and train, while their counterparts are brought here to learn what it's like to work in this kind of environment. "You may or may not know that nurses from Mary Johnston Hospital and Mary Johnston College of Nursing are sought-after in the US," he states. "Before I came here, I knew there were lots of Filipino nurses who went to the US. But what I found out was the nurses from Mary Johnston have a very strong reputation for excellence. It's a reputation that they've had for a long, long time."

American heritage

Not very many people are aware that Mary Johnston Hospital on Nolasco Street, Tondo has been identified as an American heritage site. The hospital takes very good care not only of its patients but of the structures as well, in order to provide better health service to the community and also to protect a historical legacy.

In May this year, the hospital administration authorized pest-control company Sanitation Technology (Sanitech) to install Sentricon Termite Elimination System in and around Mary Johnston Hospital. Sentricon, the revolutionary anti-termite technology that has been taking the pest control industry by storm, is the system that protects the US Statue of Liberty, some Philippine historical sites like the Rizal Shrines in Calamba and Fort Santiago, and many, many homes and properties in Metro Manila and Cebu.

Ela Dillague, marketing manager of Sentricon Philippines states, "Manila is an old city, highly urbanized, very dense. The species that thrive here is what we call the Philippine termites—white ants, as they call it. It's the type that is most tolerant to chemical treatment and very voracious eaters. They can thrive even in high-rise buildings."

Dillague mentions that Sentricon, a technology developed by US-based leader Dow Agro Sciences, takes advantage of natural termite behavior and acts like an early warning device and a treatment method. Hexaflumuron, the bait material in Sentricon, is the first pest control product in the US to receive "fast track" registration from the Environmental Protection Agency in the new "Reduced Pesticide Risk" category. Last year, Sentricon was awarded the US Presidential Green Chemistry Award for its commitment to keep the environment safe.

Noel de Guia, half of the husband-wife tandem of Sanitech, mentions that Mary Johnston Hospital is considered a sensitive environment. "You cannot initiate or introduce hazardous chemicals in the environment because the patients are here, the staff is here. So we have to be careful in dealing with pests without creating hazards or disrupting their normal operations." Sentricon, he explains, is excellent for the task because the technology is really effective, odorless, absolutely non-disruptive, environmentally friendly and safe which makes it ideal for homes and hospitals, drugstores and food establishments, schools and libraries, museums and warehouses, clubhouses and high-rise buildings.

Missionaries in Manila

According to Charles, the United Methodist Church calls its members to be stewards of God's creation. "There are a lot of toxic things being introduced in the environment and we didn't want to add to that. So that was one issue. Another issue was we didn't want our patients, our workers and everybody in our community walking around in this fog of some nasty chemical that would eventually get into the environment, maybe then into the fish, and it's just a mess. Looking at the life cycle cost of such a program, to me at least, this appears seems less expensive than the periodic ongoing treatment with chemicals. We're an organization that plans to be here for a long time. Therefore, this program is an investment in our facilities and the health of our community." He quips, "Of course their sales people were very handsome..."

One characteristic of Methodist-run hospitals like Mary Johnston is their holistic approach to health-care service, one that tends to the spirit. Mary Johnston conducts Bible studies for the staff and a morning worship service. The hospital chaplain and a deaconess visit patients, pray with them, and are there to console them.

Charles' wife, Dee, is involved in Mary Johnston's outreach project in Barangay 38, Tondo that includes milk feeding and Hepatitis-B vaccinations. As youth minister, Dee carries out an HIV-AIDS training/peer counseling program for the youth so that in turn, the kids can teach other people about HIV and AIDS.

In front of the hospital at the dispensary, people with less money can get a medical evaluation for only P20. It also provides a breast tumor clinic and performs cholesterol screening and blood sugar tests.

For about 40-45 weeks every year, on Saturdays, they go on medical missions in the provinces. Nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists and doctors load up hospital equipment, and themselves, and go out on these missions. Last year, they went on 42 missions and helped some 200-350 people at each site. "A lot of people's lives are being impacted by Mary Johnston," says Charles.

Charles is happy that many doctors say Mary Johnston is a place where the "nursing care is second to none in the city. So that's good news. You can train people in the technical aspects of the job, but you can't train them to be compassionate. Either they are or they aren't. So we are very pleased with this reputation."

From New Mexico to Tondo

Charles, who came from Albuquerque, New Mexico, has been working in hospitals for about 32 years now. He started as an autopsy assistant in a hospital, got a degree and worked as a medical technologist for many years. Then he got a master's degree and switched to hospital administration.

A year and a half ago, he and his wife became United Methodist missionaries. "We grew up relatively poor. And for whatever reason we both were able to have successful lives. Our children are either married and starting their own families or they're in college and starting on their own careers."

They knew there's a way they could give back a little bit of what they have received. And as they looked at the world from the perspective of the US, which is a huge consumer of the world's resources, they thought, "Well maybe we can go some place and have a positive impact. Maybe help create a little bit of God's kingdom right here on earth instead of just waiting."

Before being assigned in the Philippines, Charles and Dee spent six months at a United Methodist hospital in Liberia. Their Manila mission is for two years, and then they will turn over the stewardship of the hospital to a Filipino doctor. From Tondo, they will probably go to Africa.

Five months into their two-year Manila stint, the couple has gone hiking in Taal, helped push a tricycle wedged in mud in the middle of a lashing storm in Batanes ("unforgettable!"), crawled inside caves in Sagada, and found Puerto Galera "very nice." They sometimes spend Sundays at the Rizal Park, soaking up the sights and enjoying the blue sky, the breeze and the music of brass bands playing. They live right across Tutuban Center; Charles walks to work every day but when it rains, he takes a short jeepney ride to the Mary Johnston compound.

The pleasant experience of this American missionary disproves the legendary notoriety of the district. "Everybody thinks that Tondo is an awful place. And our experience has been that Tondo is not awful at all. The people are willing to share with you anything they have. They laugh, they play and they get up every day and work very hard to try to make better lives for themselves and their children. I'm very respectful of that kind of energy and resourcefulness. We shouldn't judge each other so harshly sometimes. We should remember that when one of us suffers, we all suffer."

Brown is beautiful–and healthful

(From page C1)

lar *tiki-tiki* extract, a food supplement for infants, expectant and nursing mothers is made from rice bran, according to Del Mundo and Narciso.

Vanishing breed

But why has brown rice vanished and its present-day consumption negligible?

Dr. Emil Q. Javier, chair of the Asia Rice Foundation, says the introduction of modern milling machines that produce the white polished rice caused the death of brown rice. It shifted consumers' taste and preferences since white rice connotes a "classy" lifestyle, relegating brown rice to remote barrios where *palay is* still processed through hand-pounding using mortar and pestle or stone grinder.

With the current milling process, a lot of minerals, vitamins and some protein are lost, according to Javier.

"By omitting the polishing process, these nutrients can be saved, thereby helping improve the diet of people, particularly the poor who consume more rice than the rich," Javier added.

But what is brown rice? According to experts, it is paddy rice or *palay* that is produced by removing only the hull or husk, leaving most of the bran intact. The bran contains much of the minerals, vitamins and nutrients that are useful to the body.

At present, various rice varieties are being tested for brown rice production. But the most popular is the so-called *pinawa,* grown mostly in Laguna where initiatives began in the revival of brown rice consumption.

Below are some recipes kitchen-tested by Angelita del Mundo of UP Los Baños:

RICE experts Dr. Emil Q. Javier, chair of the Asia Rice Foundation; Dr. Leo Sebastian, PhilRice executive director; and Dr. Kwanchai Gomez, also of the ARF, admire the various brown rice meals during the launching of the revival of brown rice consumption recently.

Brown Rice Champorado

1/3 c brown rice
3¼ c water
2 tbsp cocoa powder
¼ washed sugar ("D")
1 tbsp cornstarch
Evaporated milk

1. Soak brown rice in 1 c water for 1 hour.
2. Switch burner to medium heat 5 minutes before the end of 1-hour soaking.
3. Cook brown rice in medium heat for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
4. Add another cup of water and continue cooking for another 15 minutes with occasional stirring.
5. Dissolve cornstarch in ¼ c water and set aside.
6. Switch to high heat and add the last cup of water, stirring vigorously.
7. Add cocoa and sugar and cook for 10 minutes with constant stirring.
8. Put dissolved cornstarch into the mixture and stir constantly while cooking for additional 5 minutes.
9. Serve warm or cold with evaporated milk. Good for two persons.

Preparation time: Approximately 50 minutes, excluding soaking time
Cost of ingredients per recipe: P10.65
Serving suggestions:
• May be served for breakfast and snack. For breakfast, *champorado* goes well with fried or roasted dried or smoked fish.
• Amount of evaporated milk is according to taste.

Note: Cornstarch improves *champorado's* consistency.

Fried Brown Rice

1½ c leftover brown rice
1 carrot, diced
¼ cabbage, cut into strips
¼ leftover meat, diced
1 tsp cooking oil
¼ tsp *ginisa* mix
1 tsp iodized salt to taste

Cooking brown rice (if no leftover rice is available)

1. Measure 1 c of brown rice into cooking utensil. Brown rice may be cooked using a rice cooker or cast iron pot (LPG or electric burner).
2. Add 2 c water to the brown rice. Let stand for 30 minutes to soak.
3. If using rice cooker, leave the cooker undisturbed for 15 minutes.
4. If using a cast iron pot, turn knob to high setting. When steaming starts, turn knob to medium setting. When steaming stops, turn knob to low setting. Continue cooking for 20 minutes. For best results, leave the cooked rice undisturbed for 15 minutes.

Cooking fried 'pinawa'

1. Heat cooking oil in a skillet.
2. Stir-fry meat, carrot and cabbage for 2 minutes.
3. Add *ginisa* mix and stir well.
4. Combine brown rice with the mixture and continue cooking for 5 minutes with constant stirring.
5. Place iodized salt and mix well.
6. Serve warm with your favorite viand and beverage. Good for three persons.

Preparation time: Approximately 30 minutes.
Cost of ingredients per recipe: P15
Serving suggestions:
• Beverage may be coffee, tea, or chocolate.
• Best served for breakfast.

Note:
• Proportion of brown rice to water is 1:2
• Soak brown rice for 30 minutes to allow the grains to imbibe water for better cooked quality.
• Bacon, ham, scrambled egg, or flaked fish may be used instead of leftover meat.

SLMC tackles sleep disorders

ST. Luke's Medical Center's Comprehensive Sleep Disorders Center, a complete, fully computerized facility, offers the experience and expertise to deal with sleep disorders of all kinds. Its Insomnia Treatment Program is a comprehensive approach using a broad range of treatment modalities with proven efficacy.

According to Dr. Ruby Manalastas, ITP head, it is not enough to treat the symptom (insomnia). Instead, the focus should be on what is causing it. It can be physical, associated with aches and pains, chronic cough or effects of aging on sleep. It can be psychological, like stressful work-related conditions, anxiety or family problems. Another cause of insomnia could be environmental, like shift work, jet lag or lifestyle.

Many people suffer from insomnia but do not complain about it until it becomes chronic and severe. Insomnia may present as one of three types or in combination: initial insomnia, wherein there is difficulty falling asleep; middle insomnia, wherein there is difficulty maintaining sleep; or terminal insomnia, when one wakes up earlier than desired. The first step in treating insomnia is to find out which type the patient is suffering from.

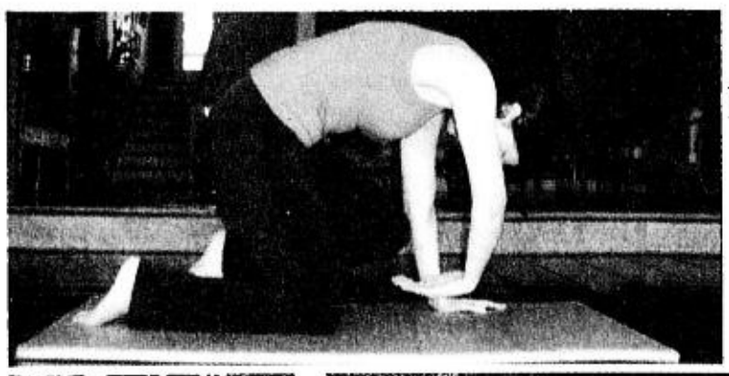
The Insomnia Treatment Program of St. Luke's Comprehensive Sleep Disorders Center has a multidisciplinary team approach to sleep disorders composed of a neurologist, pulmonologist, psychiatrist and ENT, all of whom have a common subspecialty in sleep medicine.

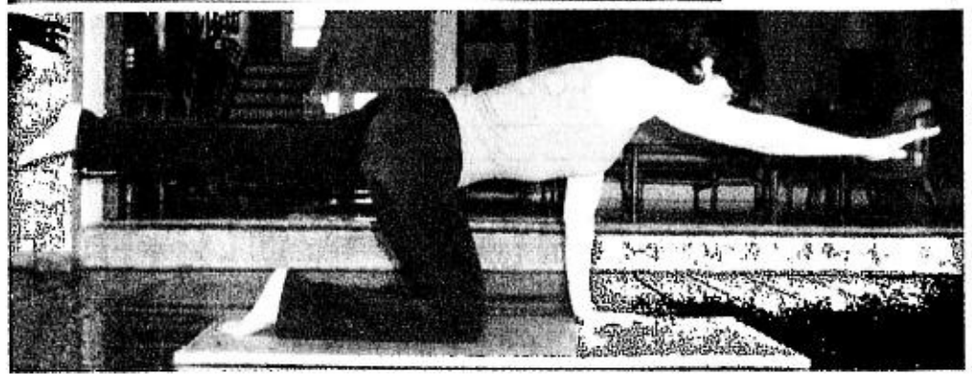
The insomnia evaluation includes the patient's sleep and medical history. The rules of good sleep hygiene are reviewed with the patient to identify any behavioral factors or misperceptions about sleep that could aggravate insomnia. The patients are given a sleep diary, where their day and evening activities are recorded for two weeks.

Aside from the insomnia evaluation, there are also diagnostic procedures available like the polysomnogram, artigraph and the psychiatric screening tools.

Treatments available include pharmacotherapy, behavioral therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy and light therapy, depending on which type of insomnia one suffers from.

Call 723-0301, local 5559 and 4729.





EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

All fours curl and extend

THIS New York City Ballet exercise tightens and tones the buttocks, hamstrings (back of the thighs), and rear deltoids (back of the shoulders) as well as challenges your balance and abdominal muscles.

Equipment:
Exercise mat.

Exercise technique:
1. You will use the opposite arm-and-leg technique—right arm and left leg and vice-versa.
2. Simultaneously bring your arm and knee toward your belly button. Initiate the movement by contracting your abdominal muscles.
3. Extend your arm and leg in one smooth move.
4. One repetition equals a curl and an extension.

Performance tips:
1. Exhale as you curl and inhale as you extend.
2. Take care not to arch the back on the extension. Keep your arm and leg at hip level.
3. Tighten buttocks and hamstrings on the extension. Tighten abs on the curl.
4. For beginners, do the arm movement only without the leg. Then practice doing the leg movement only. When you have mastered both movements, combine them.

Repetitions:
Do 10 repetitions on each side.

How to lose . . .

(From page C6)

calories is probably the worse kind of food to eat if you are trying to lose weight. It's sort of like "double jeopardy"—you are still hungry but you have already eaten many calories.

Choose lower-fat choices of the same weight food

There can be a world of difference between the caloric consumption of two people eating the same weight and type of food. How is this possible? Easy, if you consider the way the food is cooked or prepared. Here are some examples (all of them weigh 3.5 ounces). Boiled potatoes have 62 calories compared to French fries with 328 calories.

Boiled bananas have 159 calories compared to 259, if you prepare them *turon* style (wrapped, sugared and fried). Sardines in tomato sauce contain 127 calories while sardines in oil have 372. Tuna flakes in brine have 95 calories while tuna flakes in oil have 309. You get the picture?

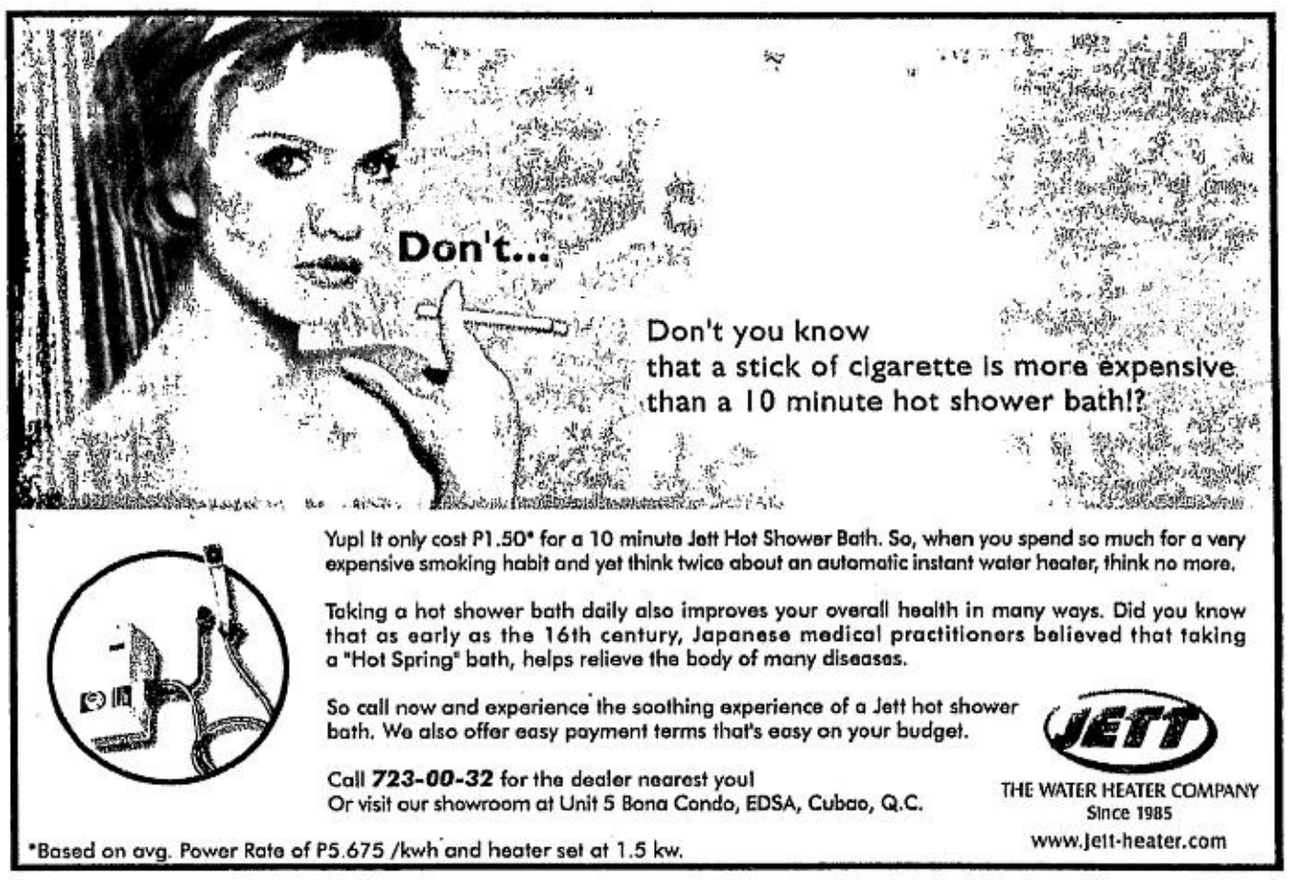
Avoid the 'light weight-high calorie' way of dieting

I know many people who don't want to eat regular-sized meals because they think that if their stomach feels heavy, they are gaining a lot of calories. Therefore, they think that by eating something light like crackers, they will lose weight. What they don't realize is that light food doesn't automatically contain few calories.

One can easily eat nine crackers (420 calories) and still not feel full because nine crackers only weigh 3 ounces. Believe it or not, you can have a satisfying meal of ½ cup steamed rice, *inihaw na bangus* (the size of a deck of cards), a cup of *kangkong* and a cup of cantaloupe for less calories. This complete meal weighs a satisfying 18.5 ounces and only "costs" 378 calories. By making the right food choices, you can cut down on unnecessary calories without starving yourself and feeling deprived.

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines (AFPP) will hold the 2001 National Fitness Convention on Nov. 24 and 25 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig. International presenters are Lawrence Biscontini (Group Exercise), Dr. Mark Slavin (Personal Training) and John Young (Fitness Management). Biscontini will hold a Fitness Yoga Certification on Nov. 23 (7 a.m.-6 p.m.) and a Resist-a-Ball Certification (1 p.m.-7 p.m.) on Nov. 25 at the Galleria Suites Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Call 842-0567.

For past articles, exercises or questions, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com.



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By making the right food choices, you can cut down on unnecessary calories without starving yourself and feeling deprived

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

How to lose weight without being hungry

ONE thing dieters probably fear the most is the deprivation and hunger they think they must endure if they want to lose weight. It is a misconception that to shed pounds one must starve or skip meals. Nothing can be further than the truth.

The secret to losing weight without going hungry is to make the right food choices. You need to choose foods that are low in calories but can satisfy your stomach so you don't become hungry. The Tufts University Health and Nutrition Newsletter cites a New Zealand University of Auckland study that may shed light on how to do this.

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

The researchers divided male participants into three groups. Each group was put on a diet with different fat percentages (their total daily calories were composed of 60, 40 or 20 percent fat) but no calorie limits. The men were told to eat as much as they wanted from the food choices they were allowed.

As expected, the men who ate the 20 percent fat diets lost weight because they consumed fewer calories. Fat contains 9 calories per gram compared to 4 calories per gram for carbohydrates or protein. Therefore, the more fat food contains, the more calories it has. However, in spite of the lower calorie diet, the men in this group were not at all hungry.

What the researchers discovered was that the men in the low-fat group unconsciously compensated by choosing foods that weighed the same as the men in the higher-fat groups ate and, therefore, were not hungry.

What this suggests, says Tufts University, is that the weight of the food you eat may play a more important role than fat or calories in satisfying your hunger. In other words, you may not need to eat high-calorie or high-fat foods to feel full but your stomach has to feel the weight of a certain amount of food.

Tufts says that there are several other studies suggesting that people tend to eat the same weight of food daily, regardless of the fat or calories that the meals contain. It's almost as if your stomach has an internal scale with a predetermined weight that has to be reached for you to be satisfied.

This may explain the rationale behind such advice as drinking a glass of water and having a bowl of soup before eating to cut down on your appetite. It may also explain why people can go on a low fat diet and yet gain weight if the majority of their food choices come from starchy food that is highly processed and low in fiber. You can eat many slices of fluffy white bread before you feel full while eating two slices of whole wheat multi-grain bread already makes you feel like you swallowed the whole loaf. Eating high fiber foods like oatmeal helps you eat fewer calories (7 ounces of oatmeal only has 120 calories) without going hungry.

Weight-to-calorie ratio

If you are trying to lose weight, Tufts University suggests choosing food based on their weight-to-calorie ratio. Eat food that weighs a lot but has few calories and avoid food that is light in weight but hefty in calories.

Fruits and vegetables are the big winners in the heavy weight-low calorie department, according to Tufts University. They weigh a lot because of their fiber and water content and yet do not have many calories. For example, one cup of cantaloupe or melon weighs 5.5 ounces but only has 56 calories. A cup of cooked *kangkong* or spinach weighs 6 ounces but only has 42 calories. Now, compare that to six cups of buttered popcorn that only weighs 3 ounces and contains 420 calories or, even worse, 1 ounce of potato chips that has 152 calories (If you ate 4 ounces, you will be inviting 608 calories to feel at home in your fat cells). That's what I call "small but terrible."

Most snack food doesn't weigh much but have many calories. This means you can eat a lot of them without feeling full and without realizing it, take in many excess calories that you don't need. Most cookies weigh ½ ounce and contain 50 calories. Eat six cookies and you only have 3 ounces of weight but you've racked up 300 calories. 1.5 ounces of a chocolate bar contain 220 calories. A small croissant only weighs 2 ounces but has 230 calories.

According to the New Zealand University study, food that is light in weight but high in

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